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LITTLETON, MASS.
HISTORICAL SKETCH.

HARWOOD.



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Mr. Moses Knig

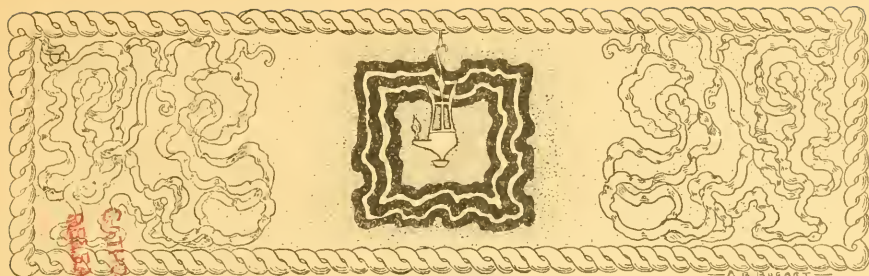
With regards of

Herbert J. Harwood

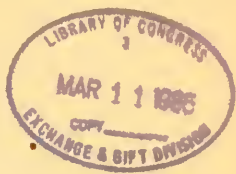
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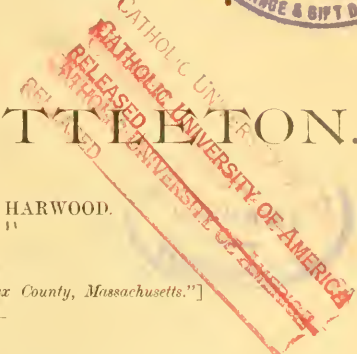


AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TOWN OF LITTLETON.

BY HERBERT JOSEPH HARWOOD.



[Reprinted from the "History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts."]

CHAPTER I.

THE origin of the Indian town of Nashobah, which once occupied the greater part of the territory now Littleton, is traceable directly to Rev. John Eliot, the apostle to the Indians and the translator of the Bible into the Indian language. He began to preach to the Indians in 1646 at Nonantum, a part of Newton. Many became converted to Christianity and expressed a desire to become civilized and to live more like white people. Eliot advised them to adopt the government which Jethro proposed to Moses for the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus xviii. 21), and to choose rulers of hundreds, of fifties and of tens; he also advised that they live in towns apart from the white people, and accordingly obtained from the General Court a grant of territory at Natick, where the "praying Indians," as they were called, formed their first town in 1651.

Other towns of the same kind were formed soon after, and among them Nashobah.

The Indians of this neighborhood were among the first to listen to Eliot's preaching, and Tahattawan the elder, sachem of Nashobah, was, according to Shattuck's "History of Concord," one of the first converts.

Rev. Thomas Shepard, of Cambridge, in his "Clear Sunshine of Gospel," speaking of the Indians and Mr. Eliot's preaching, says: "The last effect was their desire of having a town given them within the bounds of Concord near unto the English."

Among the orders and regulations for the Indians, agreed to at Concord, January, 1646, is the following:

"29. They desire they may be a town and either dwell on this side of Beaver Swamp (in Lincoln) or at the East side of Mr. Flint's Pond."

It would seem from these facts that the praying Indians of this vicinity had it in mind to form a town in or near Concord for several years before they were granted the Nashobah plantation, and that they had discussed different localities.

It would be interesting if we knew more about Eliot's preaching to the Nashobah Indians, that he

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stood on such a spot on such a day, that he came again on such a day, etc., etc.; but I have been unable to find any record of his coming to this vicinity. That both Eliot and Gookin came here I have no doubt, for it is known that they were in the habit of going about to all the settlements of praying Indians.

From the fact that Tahattawan the elder was among the first of the converts we may conclude that he first listened to Eliot's preaching at Newton or in that neighborhood, and it may be that by his invitation the apostle afterwards came up into the wilderness beyond Concord; but these are mere conjectures.

In May, 1654, Mr. Eliot petitioned the General Court for the incorporation of several Indian towns; the part of the petition which interests us reads as follows: "First, therefore the inhabitants of Nashobah living 7 or 8 miles west of Concord, desire to have liberty to make a towne in y^e place, with due accommodations thereunto. And though Concord have some conditional grants of lands y^e way, yet I understand that we shall have a loving and Christian agreement betwixt them and the Indians."

The petition is dated Boston, 4th of the 3d (May), 1654.

In the General Court records, under date of 14th of May, 1654, is the following:

"In answer to the petition of Mr. Jno. Elliott, on behalf of several Indians, the Court grants his request, viz.: liberty for the inhabitants of Nashobah [Nashobah] and to the inhabitants of Ojokontiquonames [Marlborough] and also to the inhabitants of Hasmenesuchoth [Grafton] to erect several Indian townes in the places propounded, with convenient accomodacion to each, provided they produce not any former grants; nor shall they dispose of it with out leave first had and obtained from this Court."

In reference to the incorporation of Nashobah, Mr. Shattuck, in his "History of Concord," says:

"Nashobah, lying near Nagog Pond, partly in Littleton and partly in Acton, as now bounded, accordingly became an Indian town; and here a part of the Praying Indians in Concord, with others in the vicinity, gathered and adopted civil and religious order, and had a Ruler and other municipal officers, though no church was formed. Such as were entitled to Christian ordinances probably went to Natick to celebrate the communion after a church was organized there in 1660."

Let us hope that the last part of the quotation from Mr. Shattuck is more trustworthy than the first; he gives no authority for saying that Nashobah was "partly in Acton," and I am inclined to think that he drew on his imagination for the statement, as I am unable to find any authority for it whatever, while, on the contrary, I have been able to locate the original Nashobah with tolerable accuracy, as I shall show hereafter, and am morally certain that the town of Concord never had a valid title to one inch of the land where the Indian town was laid out, and consequently that it was never "partly in Acton," which, as we all know, was set off from Concord.

We will drop the question of boundary for the present and take it up later. It may seem a little peculiar that the white people, who had taken pos-

session of all Massachusetts, with very little regard to the Indians, who had occupied it from time immemorial, should gravely grant back to them a small portion with restrictions; but such is always our "Indian policy."

The white people took possession of all the land in the Colony by virtue of their charter from the Crown of England, and the Crown protected them merely by its power.

Thus we see why it is that Indian deeds are and were of little value in conveying a title, for the Indians, having no stable government, had no power to enforce a title, and therefore a title acquired from Indians could not stand against one from the Crown.

Daniel Gookin, in his "Historical Collections of the Indians in New England," chapter vii. § 10, says: "Nashobah is the sixth praying Indian town. This village is situated, in a manner, in the centre, between Chelmsford, Lancaster, Groton and Concord. It lieth from Boston about twenty-five miles west north west. The inhabitants are about ten families, and consequently about fifty souls.

"The dimensions of this village is four miles square. The land is fertile and well stored with meadows and woods. It hath good ponds for fish adjoining to it. The people live here, as in other Indian villages, upon planting corn, fishing, hunting and sometimes labouring with the English. Their ruler, of late years, was John Ahatawance [Tahattawan], a pious man. Since his decease, Pennakennit [or Pennabannit] is the chief. Their teacher is named John Thomas, a sober and pious man. His father was murdered by the Maquas in a secret manner, as he was fishing for eels at his wear, some years since, during the war. He was a pious and useful person, and that place sustained a great loss in him. In this village, as well in other old Indian plantations, they have orchards of apples whereof they make cider, which some of them have not the wisdom and grace to use for their comfort, but are prone to abuse unto drunkenness.

"And although the laws be strict to suppress this sin, and some of their own rulers are very careful and zealous in the execution of them, yet such is the madness and folly of man naturally, that he doth eagerly pursue after that which tendeth to his own destruction.

"I have often seriously considered what course to take to restrain this beastly sin of drunkenness among them; but hitherto cannot reach it. For if it were possible, as it is not, to prevent the English selling them strong drink; yet they, having a native liberty to plant orchards and sow grain, as barley and the like, of which they may and do make strong drink that doth inebriate them, so that nothing can overcome and conquer this exorbitancy but the sovereign grace of God in Christ, which is the only antidote to prevent and mortify the poison of sin.

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John Goldsmith

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 "Near unto this town is a pond, wherein at some seasons there is a strange rumbling noise, as the Indians affirm; the reason whereof is not yet known. Some have conceived the hills adjacent are hollow, wherein the wind being pent, is the cause of this rumbling, as in earthquakes.

"At this place they attend civil and religious order, as in other praying towns, and they have a constable and other officers.

"This town was deserted during the Maquas War, but is now again re-peopled and in a hopeful way to prosper."

This, then, was the state of affairs in 1674, the date of Gookin's writing.

The pond where the rumbling noise occurred is, of course, Nagog. Traditions are plenty of rumbling noises, sometimes said to be like the discharge of cannon in the vicinity of Nashoba Hill, which is near Nagog Pond, but I have not heard of any occurring of late years. They were probably earthquakes.

John Abatawance, mentioned by Gookin, was Tattawann the younger, son of the elder of the same name.

Pennahannit, also called Captain Josiah, was the "marshal general" of all the praying Indian towns.

In the year following Gookin's account came King Philip's War, which proved disastrous to the Nashobah Indians, owing to the distrust of their loyalty to the Colony, and fears of their joining Philip and perhaps endangering their neighbors, the white people. I have never found that there were any grounds for these fears; but no Indian was trusted, and the atrocities of the hostile ones made the name Indian odious everywhere.

In the Massachusetts Archives, vol. 30, page 185, I find the following under date of November 19, 1675:

"It is ordered By the Counsell that the committe of militia of Concord and the select men of that towne with the advice of Major Willard do dispose & order matters referring to the Indians of Nashobah that have subjected to this Governon, & to settle & secure y^m in the towne of Concord under the inspection of John Hoare of Concord; (Who hath manifested himself willing to take sy^d care of them & to secure them by day & by night) & to see they bee employed to labor; for their lively hood that the country may be eased; or in case they cannot or do not agree wth John Hoare aforesaid y^t they are impoured to contract wth any other person or persons in the said towne, for the same end, or to place the said Indians or ay of them to servise, provided the mayne end be attained vize: that the indians may be employed to labor & pearved from dange & the country & towne secured.

"Past by y^e Councel 19th of November, 1675.

"E. R. S."

Also the following:

"9 Dec., 1675. It is ordered that Major Willard, Capt. Gookin with Mr. Eliot by the first opportunity are to repayre to Concord and Chelmsford & to examine those Indians there, & to use their best endeavor to settle them in such a posture either at Beare Island or in the place where they live so y^t they who are friendly to the English may secured & the English in those parts also secured & as much as may satisfied with their settlement and the said committee or any two or three of them & impoured to effect this matter & they are to use their best iudoeur that those Indians may be employd & kept to lauber & take care they be all disarmed.

"9 December 75 Past by y^e Councel

"EDW. RAWSON, Secy."

In accordance with these orders, the Indians of Nashobah were taken to Concord and put in charge of John Hoar, who kept them employed and contented for a short time. Hoar was compensated for his trouble by being exempted from impressment and, perhaps, taxation.

Gookin, in his "History of the Christian Indians," gives the following interesting account of this episode:

"About this time there befell another great trouble and exercise to the Christian Indians of Nashobah, who sojourned in Concord by order; the matter was this. The Council had, by several orders, empowered a committee, who, with the consent of the selectmen of Concord, settled those Indians at that town, under the government and tuition of Mr. John Hoare; the number of those Indians were about fifty-eight of all sorts, whereof were not above twelve able men, the rest were women and children. These Indians lived very soberly, and quietly, and industriously, and were all unarmed; neither could any of them be charged with any unfaithfulness to the English interest.

"In pursuance of this settlement, Mr. Hoare had begun to build a large and convenient work-house for the Indians, near his own dwelling, which stood about the midst of the town, and very nigh the town watch-house.

"This house was made, not only to secure those Indians under lock and key by night, but to employ them and to set them to work by day, whereby they earned their own bread, and in an ordinary way (with God's blessing) would have lived well in a short time. But some of the inhabitants of the town, being influenced with a spirit of animosity and distaste against all Indians, disrelished this settlement; and therefore privately sent to a Captain of the army, [Captain Mosely] that quartered his company not far off at that time, of whom they had experience, that he would not be backward to put in execution anything that tended to distress the praying Indians; for this was the same man that had formerly, without order, seized upon divers of the praying Indians at Marlborough, which brought much trouble and disquiet to the country of the Indians, and was a great occasion of their defection; as hath been above declared.

"This Captain accordingly came to Concord with a party of his men, upon the Sabbath day, into the meeting-house, where the people were convened to the worship of God. And after the exercise was ended, he spake openly to the congregation to this effect: 'That he understood there were some heathen in the town, committed to one Hoare, which he was informed were a trouble and disquiet to them; therefore if they desired it, he would remove them to Boston;' to which speech of his, most of the people being silent, except two or three that encouraged him, he took, as it seems, the silence of the rest for

consent; and immediately after the assembly was dismissed, he went with three or four files of men, and a hundred or two of the people, men, women and children, at his heels, and marched away to Mr. Hoare's house and there demanded of him to see the Indians under his care. Hoare opened the door and showed them to him, and they were all numbered and found there; the Captain then said to Mr. Hoare, 'that he would leave a corporal and soldiers to secure them;' but Mr. Hoare answered, 'there was no need of that, for they were already secured, and were committed to him by order of the Council, and he would keep and secure them.' But yet the Captain left his corporal and soldiers there, who were abusive enough to the poor Indians by ill language. The next morning the Captain came again to take the Indians and send them to Boston. But Mr. Hoare refused to deliver them unless he showed him an order of the Council; but the Captain could show him no other but his commission to kill and destroy the enemy; but Mr. Hoare said, 'these were friends and under order.'

"But the Captain would not be satisfied with his answer, but commanded his corporal forthwith to break open the door and take the Indians all away, which was done accordingly; and some of the soldiers plundered the poor creatures of their shirts, shoes, dishes, and such other things as they could lay their hands upon, though the Captain commanded the contrary. They were all brought to Charlestown with a guard of twenty men. And the Captain wrote a letter to the General Court, then sitting, giving them an account of his action.

"This thing was very offensive to the Council, that a private Captain should (without commission or some express order) do an act so contradictory to their former orders; and the Governor and several others spake of it at a conference with the deputies at the General Court. . . .

"The Deputies seemed generally to agree to the reason of the Magistrates in this matter; yet notwithstanding, the Captain (who appeared in the Court shortly after upon another occasion), met with no rebuke for this high irregularity and arbitrary action. To conclude this matter, those poor Indians, about fifty-eight of them of all sorts, were sent down to Deer Island, there to pass into the furnace of affliction with their brethren and countrymen. But all their corn and other provision sufficient to maintain them for six months, was lost at Concord; and all their other necessities, except what the soldiers had plundered. And the poor Indians got very little or nothing of what they lost, but it was squandered away, lost by the removal of Mr. Hoare and other means, so that they were necessitated to live upon elms, as the others did, with some little corn provided at the charge of the 'Honorable Corporation for the Indians,' residing in London. Besides, Mr. Hoare lost all his building and other cost, which he had provided

for the entertainment and employment of those Indians; which was considerable." This was in February, 1675-76.

In another place Gookin relates that fourteen armed men of Chelmsford went to the Indian camp at Wameset, near by, and called on them to come out of their wigwams, whereupon they fired on the unsuspecting Indians, wounding five women and children and killing outright the only son of John Tahattawan, of Nashobah, a boy twelve years old, and wounding his mother, Sarah or Kehonowsquaw, then a widow, the daughter of Sagamore John, of Pawtucket.

She was then a widow for the second time, having had as her second husband Onamog, ruler of the Praying Indians at Marlborough.

William Nahaton, or Tahattawan, a brother of John Tahattawan, was among the Indians at Deer Island, and was one of the six selected to serve as guides under Major Savage, in March, 1675-76.

Tom Dublet, or Nepanet, was another of the Nashobah Indians who proved of great service to the English in treating with the hostile Indians and redeeming prisoners. He it was who procured the release of Mrs. Rowlandson and others.

For one of these expeditions, which was successful in ransoming prisoners, an order was passed by the General Court awarding him two coats.

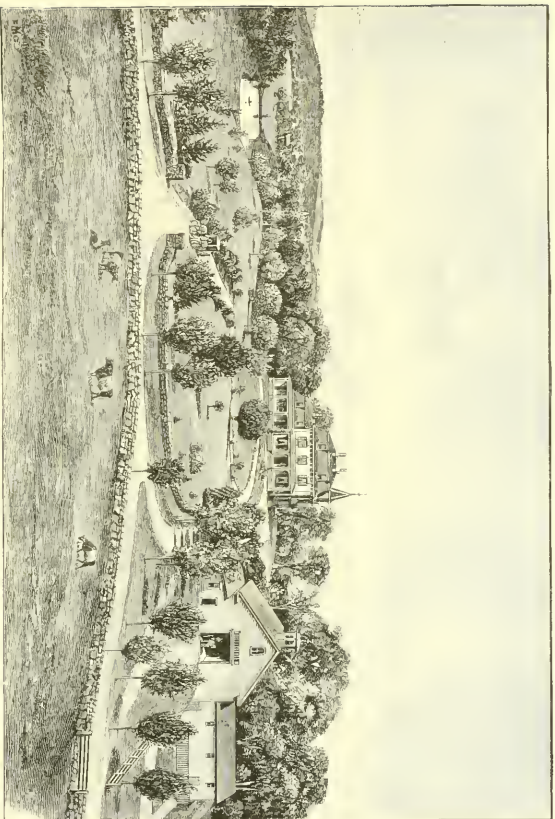
His wigwam was near the present residence of Mr. Joel Proctor, and his favorite "hole" for fishing is pointed out some distance down the brook.

There were white people living at this time in the part of the present town of Littleton which we designate as Nashoba, but which was not within the Indian plantation, but was part of Concord Village, so-called, and was sometimes designated as Powers' Farm and Nashoba Farm.

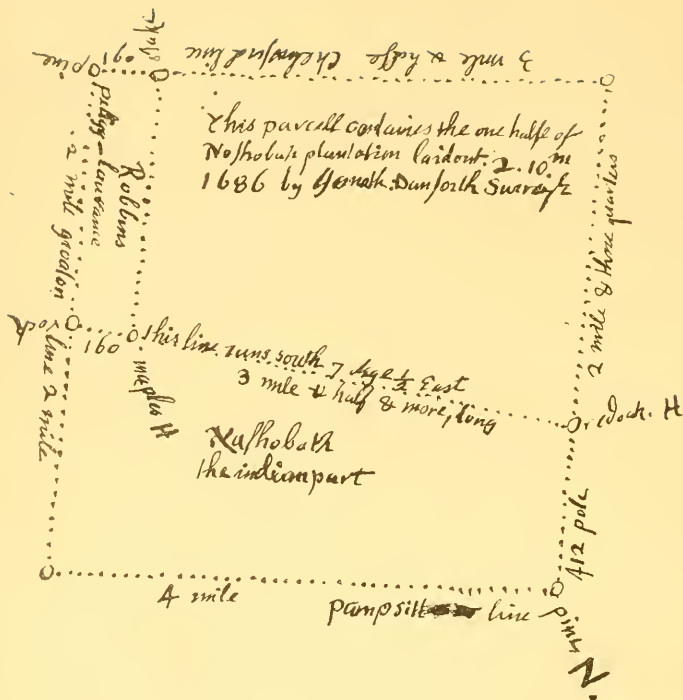
The Reed house, the ruins of which are still to be seen at the foot of Nashoba Hill, was built as a garison, probably about this time, for protection against hostile Indians.

A family by the name of Shepard was living in the vicinity during King Philip's War, and in February, 1675-76, Abraham and Isaac Shepard, two brothers, were killed by Indians as they were threshing in their barn. They had set their sister Mary, a girl of fifteen years, to watch on Quagana Hill, near by, but the Indians stole up behind, captured her before she could give an alarm and carried her away to Nashaway (Lancaster), where they encamped for the night. While the Indians slept she escaped, mounted a horse, swam the river, and rode home.

There may have been more of a village at Nashoba Farm than is now there. The ancient burying-ground, which was on the Reed Farm, was ploughed up several years since. Such desecration is shameful; but in the absence of records to show that it was ever set aside for a public burying-place, and never having been under the town's care, nobody felt



RESIDENCE OF HON. JOSEPH A. HARWOOD.



This parcel of land is bounded by Concord downe bounds southward two mile & three quarters eastward by Chebassett bounds three mile & a half & Northward by Goodm Robbins & Peleg Lawrence two mile. westward bounded by remainder of Naushoba's plantation three mile & a half & something more & this last line runs south 7 degs & 1/2 East there being 2 maples marked H for the N W corner & a red oak marked H for the south west corner.

authorized to take action after the desecration took place; the contemplation of which was known only to the perpetrator, who claimed the land.

The tombstones were used in building a wall, and some were taken away as relics so that now, probably, no vestige remains of the last resting-place of the earliest white settlers of this town.

East of where the burying-ground is said to have been may be seen a well-preserved dam, canal and mill-site beside the brook which runs through the woods.

Very few of the Nashobah Indians ever returned, but when released from Deer Island went to other places, the greater number to Natick. In the mean time white people moved into the deserted plantation, perhaps had done so to some extent before the Indians were removed, and settled there with no real right, save that of possession: for, though some bought land of the Indians, the latter had been expressly forbidden by the General Court to sell without its sanction.

Lieutenant Joseph Wheeler, of Concord, by trading with the Nashobah Indians while they still lived on their plantation, became their creditor, and petitioned the General Court in 1662 for a grant of two hundred acres of land in the south part of Nashobah in payment, but it was refused.

Peleg Lawrence and Robert Robbins, of Groton, were probably the first purchasers of Nashobah land from the Indians. A plan on file at the State-House, made by Jonathan Danforth, surveyor, and bearing date January 2, 1680-87, shows the Robbins and Lawrence tract as laid out in the northeast corner of the plantation, one-half mile wide by about two miles long; one side, the northerly, being just two miles, and the southerly a little longer.

It appears to have been supposed by these men and Groton people that the purchase of the land from the Indians brought it into Groton territory, and when, in later years, it was found that the jurisdiction over Nashobah lands was in question, and that other towns were preparing to annex it, Groton sought to strengthen her claim by getting possession of the Indian deeds. At a town-meeting in Groton, June 8, 1702, it was voted to give three acres of meadow land and ten acres of upland each to Robert Robbins and to the heirs of Peleg Lawrence, on condition that they give up their Indian titles to the town. Groton people or others who desired to belong to Groton also settled within the bounds of Nashobah, but outside of the Robbins and Lawrence purchase.

In the Middlesex County records I find that at court held at Charlestown, June 20, 1682, the following was entered:

"Captain Thomas Henchman, Lt. Jos. Wheeler & Lt. Jno. Flint, surveyor, or any two of them are nominated & empowered a committee to run the ancient bounds of Nashobah Plantation, & remark the lines; as it was returned to the general court by said Mr. Flint, at the charge of the Indians, giving notice to the selectmen of Groton of time & place of meeting was referred to Mr. Flint, to appoint & to make return to next court at Camb. in order to a final settlement."

The return is as follows:

"We whose names are underwritten being appointed by ye Honored County Court June 24th, 1682, To run the Ancient bounds of Nashobah, have accordingly run the said bounds, and find that the Town of Groton by their several laying out of lands to others have taken out their bounds as we judge near half In at Natick."

"Several of the selectmen and other inhabitants of Groton being there with us did see the error wherein & desired that laying out so far as they have invaded the right of ye Indians."

"Also we found the Northwest corner of Nashobah is run into ye first bounds of Groton, ye Quantity of 300 acres according as Groton used there show on theirs. Said line which they say was made before Nashobah was sold out, and which bounds they lay challenge as theirs Right."

"The Indians also have Declared their Sake will not forgive that Provided they may have it made up upon their West Line."

"And we Judge it may be there added to their Convenience."

"2 October 1682."

"JOSEPH WHEELER."

"JOHN FLINT."

"Exhibited in Court & approved 18 82."

"T. P. R."

From a comparison of Jonathan Danforth's plan of Nashobah and the first plan of Groton, made by the same surveyor in 1688 and published by Dr. S. A. Green in his "Boundary Lines of Old Groton" with a modern county map, it will be seen where the 350 acres lay in which Nashobah and Groton overlapped each other.

The northwest corner of Nashobah was undoubtedly the same as the present northwest corner of Littleton, on the side of Brown Hill in Pingreeville, and very nearly a right angle. It was formed by the present westerly line of the town and a line whose general direction from the corner was easterly, and is laid down on Danforth's plan of Nashobah as a straight line although records state that it ran by blazed trees which were not in a straight line.

The southeasterly line of Groton by Danforth's plan of that town ran from Forge Pond to a point near the Lactate factory, or between that and the "Newstate" railroad crossing; there it made an angle of about 150° and ran to a point at or near the present westerly corner of Littleton and northerly corner of Exbury, from which point the Groton line ran north-westerly to what is now Shirley Village. It will be seen that the easterly end of Oak Hill and considerable land in the Pingreeville corner of the town must therefore have been included in the maps made by Danforth of both Nashobah and Groton.

To which plantation this 350 or more acres rightfully belonged is a question of great doubt.

The grant of the Indian plantation of Nashobah was in 1654, and though no area nor bounds were given, it was stated by Gookin in 1674 and by others to be four miles square; in reality it was only three miles on the north side.

The original grant of Groton was in 1655, and was stated to be a tract eight miles square, but when first laid out by Danforth in 1688 it was on the average about seven miles wide by eleven long.

Groton neglected to get Danforth's plan con-

firmed by the General Court until after Nashobah was incorporated for a second time as an English town in 1714, and then the overlapped territory had been confirmed to Nashobah.

In their report Messrs. Wheeler & Flint refer to a second laying out of Groton, by which, no doubt, was claimed the Robbins and Lawrence purchase and more too, as the amount of land within Nashobah claimed by Groton was stated in a legislative report by Jonathan Tyng, Thomas How and John Stearns in 1711 to be 7840 acres, and elsewhere that the line extended beyond Beaver Brook. It does not appear that Groton ever had any valid right to this tract, but after it was taken beyond their reach by the incorporation of Nashobah in 1714, Groton men had sufficient influence in the Legislature to procure the grant, mainly in lieu of it, of Groton Gore, so called—a tract not then included in any town, but in what is now Greenville, Mason, Brookline, Milford and Wilton in New Hampshire.

The next purchase of land from the Indians, after the Robbins and Lawrence tract, and the first one of which the deed is recorded, was made June 15, 1686, by Hon. Peter Bulkeley, of Concord, and Maj. Thomas Hinchman, of Chelmsford, who bought the easterly half of the plantation for the sum of £70. The Indian grantors were:

"*Kebonowusquaw* alias Sarah, the daughter and sole heiress of John Tahattawan, Sachem and late of Nashobah deceased; *Naanishcow*, alias John Thomas; *Naanasquaw* alias Rebecca, wife to the said *Naanishcow*; *Naaskinomet*, alias Solomon, eldest son of *Naanishcow* and *Naanasquaw*, sister to the aforesaid Tahattawan; *Weegraminomet* alias Thomas Waban; *Nackcominewok*, relict of Crooked Robin; *Wunnuhew* alias Sarah, wife to Neepanum alias Tom Dube let."

The description of the land is as follows:

"And it contains one moiety or half part of said Nashobah plantation, & the easterly side of it; It is bounded by Chelmsford plantation (about three miles & three-quarters) on the easterly side; by Concord village Land Southward, about two miles & three-quarters; Northward it is bounded by Land sold by the aforesaid Indians to Robert Robbins and Peter Lawrence, both of Groton Town, which land is part of the aforesaid Nashobah plantation, & this Line is exactly two miles in Length & runs East three degrees Northwesterly, or West three degrees southerly, & the South end runs parallel with this Line: On the West-erly side it is bounded by the remainder of said Nashobah plantation; & that West Line runs (from two little maples marked with H for the Northwest corner) it runs South seven degrees & thirty minutes east, four miles & one-quarter; the most Southerly corner is bounded by a little red oak marked H, the north east corner is a stake standing about four or five pole southward of a very great Rock that Lyeth in the line between said Nashobah & Chelmsford plantation."

The great rock is no doubt the one in the orchard on the farm of the late Barnabas Dodge, a short distance south of the road, and that is now in the line between Littleton and Westford.

I am forced to the conclusion that Jonathan Danforth, whose plan of 1686 appears to have been made for the purpose of locating the Bulkeley and Hinchman purchase, made his plan more in the interest of his clients than of accuracy, and suspect that he did not measure the north line of the plantation at all, but assumed that it was four miles long and so meas-

ured off two miles for Bulkeley and Hinchman, and ran his other lines accordingly. My reasons for this belief are that the distance from the great rock mentioned to the northwest corner of Littleton on the side of Brown Hill, which all authorities agree is the original northwest corner of Nashobah, is only about three miles, and when it came to be surveyed under the direction of a legislative committee in 1711, the north line of the plantation is reported as three miles.

If the reader will look at a map of Littleton and note the following points, he will have the four corners of the ancient Indian plantation Nashobah: the northwest corner of Littleton on the side of Brown Hill, near the road to Ayer, was one corner; a point near the centre of Buxboro', found by prolonging the present west and south lines of Littleton until they meet, was another corner; the westerly end of Nagog pond was a third corner, and a point on the Westford line, between the Dodge place and Forge Pond, was the fourth corner. It was uniformly spoken of as four miles square, but was not exactly that, being, as we have seen, only three miles on one side, and having corners which varied slightly from right angles.

The purchases of Robbins, Lawrence, Bulkeley and Hinchman left in the hands of the Indians only that portion of the plantation which Danforth in his plan designates as "Nashobah the Indian part," being the westerly portion, four miles long on the west line two miles theoretically on the north line, but actually only about one, and 412 poles on the south line.

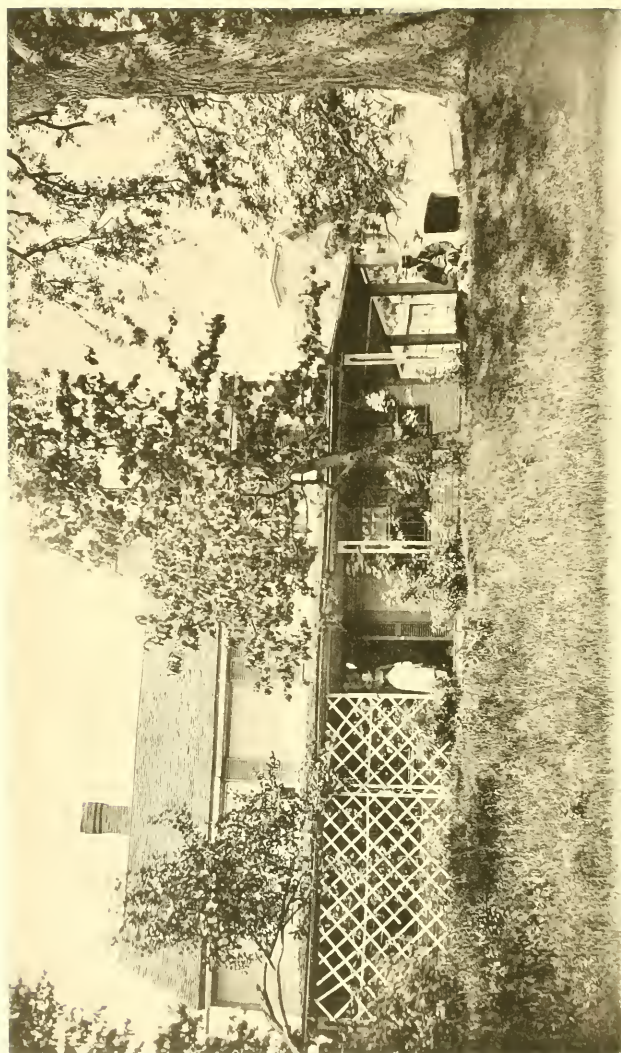
Deeds from the Indians covering this portion are on record at Cambridge as follows: Under date of May 9, 1694, from Thomas Wahan, of Natick, to Walter Powers, of Concord, in consideration of fifteen pounds, and other things—

"A certain Tract of Land upland, Swamp, Meadow & Meadow Land, Containing one Quarter part of an Indian Plantation known by ye name of Nashobah within their Majesties Province of ye Massachusetts Bay. The easterly half of *sd* Plantation being formerly bought of ye Indians by Major Hinchman and ye West-erly Quarter part of ye Plantation is yet in Possession of ye Indians being Challenged by John Thomas Indian and this quarter part of the plantation by one now sold as above lies between ye *sd* half that Major Hinchman bought of ye Indians and ye other Quarter part *ye* said Indian John Thomas claims from End to End both upland and Meadow, ye Souther End bounds upon Pompsitiquitt, or ye Town Ship of Stow, and ye Northerly End runs [to] Groton Line."

And under date of May 10, 1701, from

"Solomon Thomas & John Thomas Jr., both of Natick, to Josiah Whitcomb of Lancaster," "A certain parcel or Tract of Land lying and being in a place Commonly Called and known by the name of Meshowah [Nashobah] and is a Quarter part of a Tract of Land four miles square, It being four mile in Length and one mile in breadth be it more or less as it is bounded with Stow Land on the South and West and Wilderness Land on the North and the Land of Walter Powers on the East, and all that is therein and thereupon, and all rights, privileges, easements and appurtenances belonging to the thereby granted premises."

Solomon Thomas and John Thomas, Jr., were sons of John Thomas, and it is fair to assume that he had transferred his interest in this tract to them, as he was still living at the time.



RESIDENCE OF JONATHAN HARTFELL WHITCOMB

Built Early in the 18th Century

A confirmatory deed of the Bulkeley and Henchman purchase was given in 1714 by Thomas Waban, John Thomas and John Thomas, Jr., to Major Henchman and the heirs of Peter Bulkeley, and states that the consideration was passed twenty-eight years before.

This deed, old and yellow, but still legible, bearing the signature of Waban, and the marks of the other two, is still in existence, and in the possession of the writer, to whom it was presented by his father, Hon. Joseph A. Harwood. It is an extremely interesting document, and was formerly owned by Mr. Samuel Gardner Drake, author of "Drake's Book of Indians," from whose hands it passed through one other only to Mr. Harwood.

What disposition to make of Nashobah seems to have been a troublesome question for the General Court to decide, and the conflicting interests which sought possession of the very desirable farming lands there lying idle were powerful enough to keep the question in suspense for many years.

It appears to have been a contest between Major Henchman and others, who had bought of the Indians and wished to colonize the place and form a town, on one side, and the neighboring municipalities, which wished to annex the territory, on the other. In the end the colonization interest won.

Reference is made to a petition from Concord people, who desired a grant of the land for settling on it, but it was stated not to have been pressed, owing to the "publick troubles that hath happened," referring no doubt to the troubles in England at the time of the accession of William and Mary; but in 1698 it was renewed by a petition signed by twenty-one Concord men and seventeen Chelmsford men, stating: "And your petitioners, for themselves or children, stand in need of an inlargement & accommodations (who, if not accommodated neer home, must be necessitated to remove out of the Province), having also obtained the Indian Title of ye one-halfe of ye sd Tract, of ye Administrators of ye estate of Peter Bulkeley, Esq., deceased, and of Major Thomas Hinchman, . . . In order to the setting up of an English plantation."

Major Henchman endorsed the document to the effect that the petitioners had purchased the title to half the tract.

The matter was put in the hands of a committee to report to the next session, which again put it off in the same manner, and it seems to have come to nothing for several years after. The signatures, however, to the petition include many Littleton names, from which it is fair to assume that this was in a measure the party which was finally successful in getting the grant. I give the names in full:

CONCORD.—Joseph Estabrook, Thomas Packin, John Wheeler, Jno. Jones, Eliphelet Fox, Symon Davis, Senr., Thomas Browne, Senr., Saml How, Samuel Prescott, Jr. Meriam, Samuel Hartwell, Nathl Harwood, Moses Wheatt, Roger Chandler, Walter Power, Senr., Wm. Wilson, Samuel Jones, Jno. Hore, Jno. Wood, George Robins.

CHELMSFORD.—Jno. Hartwell, Senr., Jno. Hold, Saml Stratton, Jona-

than Prescott, Junr., Jacob Taylor, Tho. Wheller, James Snedly, Thomas Clark, Joseph Farwell, Edward Emerson, Joseph Adams, Jno. Kidder, Steven Pierce, Abraham Parker, John Perram, Moses Parker, Eleazar Brown.

As has been stated before, Groton attempted to annex a large part of Nashobah, but was not successful. Stow also made an attempt to get the whole, and in 1702 petitioned the General Court, reciting the facts that Nashobah, a tract of land four miles square, was deserted by the Indian proprietors, who wished to sell; that certain English claimed it by purchase, and that Groton had of late extended their town bounds to take in a large part, especially of meadow, but that Stow, being small, stood in the greatest need of it, and praying for leave to purchase and join the land to Stow. The petition was granted on the part of the House, but negatived in the Council.

This left the matter still open, and people continued to settle in Nashobah, some by right of purchase and others without right. Of course they had no town government, though no doubt most of them associated themselves with the neighboring towns, where they attended church and paid minister's rates, and perhaps other taxes, as towns were allowed to tax outlying settlers not in other towns.

Jonathan Whitcomb, nephew of Josiah Whitcomb, who purchased of the Indians, settled where his descendant, Jonathan Hartwell Whitcomb, now lives, the farm having been handed down in the family ever since, and as he was a shoemaker, or "cordwainer" and kept accounts with his neighbors as early as 1708, I have been able to gather from them the names of many of the first settlers. Among them are the names of Robbins, Lawrence, Parker, Willard, Farnsworth, Pearce, Powers, Wheeler, Wetherbee, Stone, Davis, Whitney, Jewett, Woods, Gilson, and many others not now familiar. The next move for a grant of Nashobah, of which I find record, was in 1711, when twenty-three, who styled themselves "Inhabitants of Concord, Chelmsford, Lancaster & Stow, &c.," petitioned for a grant of Nashobah, "In a regular manner to settle a township," reciting that sundry persons had made entry upon the land without application to the government, and that others were intending to do the same.

The petitioners were:

Gershom Procter, Saml Procter, John Procter, Joseph Fletcher, John Miles, John Parlin, Robert Robins, John Darby, John Barker, Sam Stratton, Hezekiah Fletcher, Josiah Whitcomb, John Entrick, Willm Powers, Jonathan Hubbard, Wm. Keen, John Heald, John Bateman, John Heywood, Thomas Wheeler, Saml Hartwell, Junr., Saml Jones, John Miriam.

Acting thereon the General Court, on June 7, 1711,

"Ordered that Jos. Tyng, Esq., Thom. Howe, Esq., & Mr. John Sterne, be a Committee to view the Land mentioned in the Petition, & Represent the Lines or Bounds of the Several adjacent Towns bounding on the sd Lands, and to have Special Regard to the Land granted to the Indians, & to make report of the quantity & Circumstances thereof."

The report of this committee gives the best description to be found of the plantation, and the state of things at that time, and I therefore copy it in full:

"The report of the Comity of the Hon^{ble} Court upon the petition of Concord, Chelmsford, Lancaster & Stow, for a grant of Part of Nashobe lands.

"Pursuant to the directions given by this Hon^{ble} Court hearing Date the 30th of May, 1711, The County Reports as followeth that is to Say, &c.

"That on the second day of October, 1711, the s^d comity went upon the premises with an Artie and vevell view'd and servaid the Land mentioned in the Peticon, and find that the most Southerly line of this plantation of Nashobe is boundd partly on Concord & partly on Stow, and this line contains by Estimation upon the survey a bought three miles and 59 polle. The Westerly line Runs partly on Stow & partly on land claimed by Groton and contains four miles and 20 polle, extending to a place called Brown hill. The North line Runs a litle contain lands claimed by Groton and contains three miles, the Easterly line Runs partly on Chelmsford, and partly on a farm cald Powerris farm, in Concord; this line contains a bought four miles and twenty-five pole.

"The lands a boue mentioned were shewed to vs for Nashobe Plantation, and there were ancient marks in the Suerall lines fairly marked, And s^d comite find vpon the Survey, that Groton bath Run into Nashobe (as it was Shewed to vs), So as to take out were one-half s^d plantation and the biggest part of the medows, it appears to vs to Agree well with the report of Mr. John Flint & Mr. Joseph Wheeler, who were a Cometty employed by the County Court in midlesex, to Run the boundes of said plantation. (June 3rd 20th, '82). The plat will demonstrate how the plantation lyeth & how Groton comes in vpon it, as also the quantite which is a bought 7840 acres.

"And said Comite are of the opinion that they may [be] a township in that place, it lying So remote from most of the neighboring Towns, provided this Court Shall Se reson to continue the boundes as we do judg that they have been maid at the first being out; And that they be sum addition from Concord & Chelmsford which we are redy to think will be complyd with by s^d Towns, And s^d Comite do find a bought 15 famelys Settled in s^d plantation of Nashobe, (5) in Groton claimed, and ten in the remainder, and 3 famelys which are already settled on the powerris farm, were convenient to joyne wth s^d plantation and are a bought Eight mille to any meting-house. (Also ther are a bought Eight famelys in Chelmsford which are already setled near Nashobe line & six or seven mille from their own meting-house.

"JONATHAN TYNG,

"THOMAS HOW,

"JOHN STEARNS.

"In the House of Representatives Nov^r. 2, 1711. Read.

"Act: 23, 1713. In Council Read and accepted; And the Indian native Proprietors of the s^d Plantat^{ns}, Being removed by death Except two or Three families only remaining, is Declared and Directed That the said Lands of Nashobe be preserved for a Township.

"And Whereas it appears That Groton, Concord and Stow by Several of their Inhabitants have Encroached and Settled upon the Said Lands; This Court sees not reason to remove them to their Damage, but will allow them to be and remain with other Inhabitants that may be admitted into the Town to be there settled; And that they have full Liberty when their Names and Number are determined to purchase of the few Indians there remaining, for the Establishment of a Township accordingly.

"Saving convenient Allotments and portions of Land to the remaining Indian Inhabitants for their Setting and Planting.

"1st. A. ADDINGTON, Secry.

"In the House of Representatives, Octob^r. 23rd, 1713. Read."

It will be noticed that this report was not acted on by the Council for nearly two years after it was made and acted on in the House.

By this action the General Court decided that Nashobah should be a town for English people, and for the first time committed itself on the question.

The act of incorporation followed about a year later, that is, on November 2, 1714, under which date the following entry is found in the General Court Records :

"The following Order Pass^d by the Represent^{es}, Read & Concur'd, viz. Upon Consideration of the many Petitions & Claims relating to the Land called Nashoba Land; Ordered That the said Nashoba Land be made a Township, with the Addition of such adjoining Lands of the

Neighbouring Towns, whose Owners shall petition for that end, & that this Court should think fit to grant. That the said Nashoba Lands having been long since purchased of the Indians by Mr. Bulkeley & Heuchman, one-Half, the other Half by Whetcomb & Powers, That the Said purchase be confirmed to the children of the said Bulkeley, Whetcomb & Powers, & Cpt. Robert Meers as Assignee to Mr. Heuchman according to their respective Proportions; Reserving to the Inhabitants, who have settled within these Bounds, their Settlements with Divisions of Lands, in proportion to the Granters, & such as Shall be hereafter admitted; the said occupants or Present Inhabitants paying in Proportion as others shall pay for their Allotments; Provided the said Plantation shall be settled with Thirty-five Families & an orthodox Minister in three years time. And that Five hundred Acres of Land be reserved and laid out for the Benefit of any of the Descendants of the Indian Proprietors of the Said Plantation, that may be surviving; A Proportion thereof to be for Sarah Doublet alias Sarah Indian. The Rev. Mr. John Leverett & Spencer Phips, Esq^r, to be Trustees for the Said Indians to take Care of the Said Lands for their Use.

"And it is further Ordered that Cpt. Hopstill Brown, Mr. Timothy Wily & Mr. Joseph Burnap, of Reading, be a Committee to lay out the said Five hundred Acres of Land reserved for the Indians & to run the Line between Groton & Nashoba, at the Charge of both Parties, & make Report to this Court; And that however the Line may divide the Land with regard to the Township, yet the Proprietors on either side may be continued in the Possession of their Improvements, paying as aforesaid; And that no Persons legal Right or Property in the Said Lands shall [be] her-by taken away or infringed.

"Consented to

J. DUPLEY."

From this act of November 2, 1714, we date the present town, afterwards, as we shall see, named Littleton.

The report of the committee finally establishing the bounds and laying out the Indian reservation was as follows :

"The following Report of the Committee for Running the Line between Groton & Nashoba Accepted by Represent^{es}. Read and Concur'd: viz.

"We the subscribers appointed a Committee by the General Court to run the Line between Groton & Nashoba & to lay out Five hundred Acres of Land in said Nashoba to the [sic] Descendants of the Indians; Pursuant to said Order of Court, bearing date Octob^r. 20th [the opening of the session] 1714. We the Subscribers return as follows. That on the 30th of November last, we met on the premises, & heard the Information of the Inhabitants of Groton, Nashoba & others of the Neighbouring Towns, referring to the Line that has been between Groton & Nashoba & seen several Records, out of Groton Book, & considered other Writings, that belong to Groton and Nashoba, & we have considered all and we have run the Line (Which we account is the old Line between Groton & Nashoba;) We began next Chelmsford Line, at a Heap of Stones, where, we were informed, that there had been a great Pine Tree, the Northeast Corner of Nashoba, and run Westerly by many old marked Trees to a Pine Tree standing on the Southerly End of Brown Hill mark'd N and those marked Trees had been many times marked or renewed, tho they do not stand in a direct or strait Line to said Pine Tree on said Brown Hill; And then from said Brown Hill we turned a litle to the East of the South, & run to a White Oak being an old Mark, and so from said Oak to a Pitch Pine by a Meadow, being an other old Mark; & the same Line extended to white oak near the North East Corner of Stow; And this is all, as we were informed, that Groton & Nashoba joine together; Notwithstanding the Committees Opinion is, that Groton Men be continued in their honest Rights, tho they fall within the Bounds of Nashoba, & we have laid out to the Descendants of the Indians Five hundred Acres at the South East Corner of the Plantation of Nashoba; East side, Three hundred Poles long, West side three hundred Poles, South & North ends, Two hundred and eighty Poles broad; A large white Oak marked at the North west Corner, and many Live Trees we marked at the West Side & North End, & it takes in Part of two Towns.

"Dated Decem^r 14, 1714.

"HOPSTILL BROWN

"TIMOTHY WILY

"JOSEPH BURNAP

"Consented to J. DUPLEY."



Elis. Manning

The two ponds referred to in the part laid out for the Indians were Fort Pond and Nagog Pond.

The town having been duly incorporated, we find, as in all the old towns, two record books started, the Proprietors' Record-Book and the Town Records.

The proprietors continued their meetings and records until the last of the common lands were divided in the part of the town known as "New State Woods," or more properly New Estate, a name I suppose applied about the time of the division of it into individual holdings. The last entry in the Proprietors' Record-Book was in 1755. The first entry begins by reciting the act of the Legislature of November 2, 1714, then follows

"No (2)

"To all Christian People before whom these presents shall Come Greeting Know yee yt we whose names are underwritten having obtained yt General Courts grant of a certain tract or parcel of Land comonly calld Nashoba which was long since purchased of ye Indian Proprietors of sd Land, by our selves & predecessors as may appear by our several Deeds. Do by these presents mutually agree to throw all in Common for ye good of ye Town, & so to draw our several proportions according to our several intrests & former agreements—& yt we do further agree to admit as associates according to former agreements, Paul Dudley Esqr, Addington Davenport Esqr & Mr John White all of Boston—& also to reserve two or three Lots where it is most convenient for ye ministry Schole or such other Public uses as may be thought Proper to be at ye disposition of ye major part of ye Propriety also to bare our proportion of all ye Charge yt hath or may arise on ye premises.

"To ye confirmation of which we find & oblige our selves our heirs executors and Administrators finally by these presents in witness whereof we have hereinto set our hands and seals this 15th of Decem^r 1714. Note that ye lands calld Poweres farm is not by this instrument included

"Addington Davenport,* Jⁿs White,* Joseph Bulkely,* Robert Robbins,* Marsh Wheeler,* Increase Powers,* Jons Prescott,* John Hancock,* Daniel Powers,* Robert Mears,* Isaac Powers,* Tho^s Powers, Walter Powers,* Josiah Whitcomb,* Will^m Powers,* John Bulkely,* Paul Dudley,* Elizeur Lawrence.*

"Signed & sealed in presence of us

"DAN. LAWRENCE

"SAM^l. LONG."

The admission as associates of Paul Dudley, Addington Davenport and John White, "according to former agreements" shows that influence was required to get the measure through the Legislature.

A curious error seems to have been made in the act of incorporation which made the following action necessary, under date of

"SATURDAY, Decr. 3, 1715.

"Upon Reading the Petition of Josiah Whitcomb of Lancaster, importing

"That whereas the Great and General Court or assembly at the Session in Oct 1714, in consideration that the Land called Nashoba Land then ordered to be made a Township was purchased of the Indians, one Half by Mr Bulkely & Mr Henchman, & the other half by Whitcomb (the Petitioner, who was supposed to be dead as he is informed) and that one Powers did Order that the said Purchase be confirmed to the Children of the said Bulkely Whitcomb & Powers & to Capt. Robert Mearse assignee of Mr Henchman according to their respective Proportions, and by the copy of the Order of Confirmation of the General Court will more fully appear Humbly Praying that the General Court will please to revoke the Confirmation or Grant made to his Children & confirm to him his fourth part of the said Land, that he may enjoy what he honestly purchas'd & that he may have Liberty to make Disposition thereof according to his own Will & Pleasure.

"To Council, Read & Consented that the Prayer of the within Petition be granted, And Ordered that the name of the Township be hence-

forth called Littleton. To the House of Representatives Read & Concurred.

"Consented to

W^m TAILER."

The date December 3, 1715, has been erroneously used for the date of the incorporation of the town, but the reader can see for himself that the former act of November 2, 1714, is the correct date, and that the new town bore the name Nashoba for one year.

It is said that the name Littleton was given as a compliment to Hon. George Lyttleton, M.P., one of the commissioners of the treasury, and that in acknowledgment he sent from England a church-bell as a present to the town; but on account of the error in spelling by substituting "i" for "y," the present was withheld by the person having it in charge, who gave the excuse that no such town as Lyttleton could be found, and sold the bell.

The first recorded town-meeting was held March 13, 1715-16.

The record begins somewhat abruptly, and it is by no means certain that the record-book, which is quite loose in the covers from age, has not lost a few pages bearing previous records. Isaac Powers was moderator, Samuel Dudley was chosen town clerk and first selectman, and the other selectmen were John Perrum, John Cobleigh, Moses Whitney and William Powers. The other town officers were: Samuel Corry, constable; Samuel Barret, tythingman; Thomas Power and John Wheeler, surveyors of highways; Ebenezer Robbins and Jacob Powers, hog constables; John Barret and Thos. Farr, fence-viewers, and Isaac Powers, sealer of weights and measures and treasurer.

Of these men, Isaac Powers lived first in the section of the town we call Nashoba, and afterwards in the Centre, where George Whitcomb now lives. Samuel Dudley lived beside the mill-pond, on land now owned by John A. Kimball and used by him for a pasture. A magnificent elm having a peculiar long horizontal limb a short distance above the ground, stands by the Dudley cellar-hole. He probably owned land extending from there to Fort Pond.

Moses Whitney lived where Frank Ford now lives, in the south part of the town. John Perrum or Perham lived probably in the southeast part of the town. Wm. Powers lived in Pingreyville; Jacob Powers lived at the Old Common.

One of the first things for the new town to do was to procure and settle a minister, and a town-meeting was held April 17th in regard to the matter, at which time it appears that Rev. Benjamin Shattuck was a candidate. A committee consisting of John Cobleigh, John Perham and Eleazer Lawrence were chosen to confer with the ministers of the neighboring townes, the Reverend Messrs. Eveleth, Stoddard, Trowbridge and Whitney, and get their advice in regard to Mr. Shattuck.

Their report is not recorded, but on May 9th, at a meeting called for the purpose, Mr. Shattuck was chosen minister, and the sum of £70 was appropriat-

ed towards his settlement to be "added to his lot." His salary was fixed at £55, to advance 20 shillings a year until it amount to £70 a year.

Rev. Benj. Shattuck accordingly took up his residence as the first minister of the town and completely identified himself with it. He had several daughters who married in town, and the Hartwell, Tuttle and Taylor families all trace their ancestry back to him. Mr. Shattuck was born in Watertown, July 30, 1678, graduated at Harvard college in 1709, and for the following six years was teacher of the grammar and English school in Watertown, at the same time studying for the ministry. He was ordained at Littleton, on Christmas day, 1717, and continued as the minister of the town until August 24, 1730, when it was agreed by mutual consent that a council be called for his dismissal. He continued to live in town, however, until his death, in 1763.

His residence was the house now owned by Mrs. Eliza Hartwell.

The first meeting-house was located on the Common, in front of John B. Robinson's present residence, where it was located to accommodate people from the borders of Chelmsford and Concord, who helped bear the cost of the building, and attended church here, and who, it was hoped, would be set off to this town by the General Court, which was petitioned to that effect for several years in succession, the people in question and Littleton citizens joining in the petition. There were six families from Chelmsford, and Walter Powers, John Powers, David Russell and John Merriam, of Concord, living on Nashoba Farm, who were for several years freed from their minister's rates in those towns, and allowed to pay in Littleton, and I find that at several of our early town-meetings, at which the town acted in its parochial capacity, a vote was passed allowing Concord, Chelmsford and Groton men to vote in the meeting, and at one time two Concord and Chelmsford men were chosen assessors to assist in making the rates.

Finally, in 1725, the General Court granted the petition for annexation so far as related to Concord families, and a large tract of land extending from Nagog Pond nearly or quite to the Old Common, was added to the town, enlarging the bounds in that direction, probably to their present position.

Mention is made of the meeting-house as early as 1717, and it was probably in an unfinished condition at the time of Rev. Mr. Shattuck's ordination, but was not completed until 1723.

It had entrances on three sides, after the custom of those days, with probably square pews all around the walls at least. No mention is made of bell, steeple nor gallery, and I am of the opinion it had neither.

The building committee appear to have taken matters rather leisurely, and the following vote was passed August 26, 1723:

"To accept the meeting-house on condition that previous committee

finish seats and chaford what is wanting as soon as possible, this fall & the ceiling [sic] by next fall, or make allowance of — to have it done. Committee to be acquitted when work done."

It looks as if the committee did the work themselves.

The meeting-house being finished, the great question was how to apportion the seats in a manner satisfactory to all.

It was decided in assigning the family pews, first, to have respect to age, and then the one having the highest income to have choice and so on. A committee having the matter in charge made a report which is recorded in full, giving location of the seats assigned to various persons as follows: Eleazer Lawrence, the pew on the left of the west door; Walter Powers, second pew from the pulpit, that is, as I understand it, at the side of the pulpit, and probably to the east; Joshua Fletcher, on the right of the east door; Major Prescott, the pew next Mr. Shattuck's, that is, probably on the west side, the minister's being next to the pulpit; Samuel Dudley, the pew on the east of the pulpit; Joseph Baker, the northeast corner pew; Isaac Powers, the pew at the right of south door; Moses Whitney, the pew at the left of south door; Robert Robbins, the pew at the right of Isaac Powers', which was given up to Robert Robbins by Thomas Powers, who took Robbins' seat, the "fore seat below," that is, front seat in the main body; John Perham, the pew at the right of west door; Samuel Hunt, the northwest corner pew; John Wheeler, the pew at the left of Moses Whitney's; Deacon Caleb Taylor, the pew at the left of the east door.

For years the seating of the meeting-house, that is, of those not having family pews, seems to have been a troublesome duty, which had to be done annually, and it was no uncommon thing to have the first attempt of the committee rejected. The women sat on one side of the house and the men on the other. In 1760 the rear seats were assigned to negroes by vote of the town.

An incident occurred in 1720 which made quite a sensation in town at the time. It was no less than a witchcraft accusation which might have proved still more sensational had it not been for the death of the person accused.

Joseph Blanchard, who lived on or near Mr. Elbridge Marshall's place, had at that time three young daughters—Elizabeth, aged about eleven, Joanna, about nine and Mary, about five or six years. These children, first the eldest, then the next, and finally the youngest, began to act in a very strange and unaccountable way. Elizabeth began by telling very strange stories of things happening at the time, or supposed to, and of strange dreams; she would also swoon into a trance and appear dead; she performed sleight-of-hand tricks and told fortunes; she would be found in strange places, such as in the top of a tree, or in a pond of water, asserting she flew to the tree or was



RESIDENCE OF HON. GEORGE W. SANDERSON.

Built between 1750 and 1770. Photograph taken 1900.

forced into the water, and in danger of drowning, at which she would cry out in distress. She also complained of pinches and prickings of the flesh, and showed wounds, and rents in her clothes, asserting she was bewitched, and accused Mrs. Dudley, wife of Samuel Dudley, town clerk, of bewitching her. When put to the test of reading Scripture she would read, but fall down apparently lifeless when she came to the words "God," "Christ," or "Holy Ghost." She would bite people, excepting Rev. Mr. Shattuck, whom she appeared to have no power to hurt.

About four months after Elizabeth began to act in this way, Joanna also began to do the same things, and once was found on the top of the barn, a place apparently impossible for her to reach by her own exertions, and whither she said she was carried up through the air. About two months later Mary began the same actions.

Elizabeth would often cry out, "There she is! there's Mrs. Dudley!" when Mrs. Dudley was nowhere visible. Once she told her mother there was a little bird in a certain part of the room; her mother, having something in her hand, struck at the place, at which Elizabeth cried out, "Oh, mother, you have hit it on the side of the head." It was afterwards found that Mrs. Dudley was at the same time hurt on one side of her face. Another time Elizabeth said to her mother, "There's Mrs. Dudley; she is just there; coming to afflict me!" Her mother struck the place with something and Elizabeth cried out, "You have hit her on the bowels."

It was found that Mrs. Dudley, at the same time, felt a pain, took to her bed and died in a few weeks.

On the face of this story it appears very mysterious and inexplicable by natural causes. Blanchard and his wife believed the children sincere and guileless, and though some wiser ones including, it is thought, Mr. Shattuck, advised separating the children by taking one or more to their homes, the parents would not consent to it, and the majority believed them bewitched. A few days after the death of Mrs. Dudley the strange actions of the two older children ceased.

It proved however, that Mrs. Dudley's death was perfectly accountable; she was in a delicate condition, and on riding horseback behind her husband at a rapid rate felt something break within her.

Though the children for a long time persisted that their stories had been true, and Elizabeth did not weaken, even when, requesting baptism, she was questioned by Mr. Shattuck about the circumstances, and told that some of her neighbors suspected her of falsehood; yet eight years after the girls confessed to Rev. Mr. Turell, minister of Medford, to which place they had moved, that their stories were all false and that their strange actions, begun in a playful spirit of mischief, had been continued because they were ashamed to own up.

When they heard of Mrs. Dudley's death, who, by the way, was a most estimable woman and against whom the children had no cause for ill-feeling, the two oldest children were thoroughly frightened, and for a long time lived in fear of a ghostly retribution.

Elizabeth told Mr. Turell that she got her idea of acting in the strange manner from reading about witchcraft, and the other children picked it up from her.

There appears to have been some friction between the town and Rev. Mr. Shattuck, the cause of which is not apparent on the records, but which led to his retirement from the ministry in 1730. For a year or two previous there was a growing opposition to him, manifested in the opposition to the customary vote of £10 to him annually, in addition to his salary, in lieu of paying the same into the Province treasury, and finally, at the April meeting in 1730, the town refused to appropriate his salary. Mr. Shattuck made a proposition to the town through Joseph Underwood, and in accordance with that a committee consisting of Capt. Isaac Powers, Robert Robins, Samuel Corey, Dea. David Russell and Dea. John Wood were chosen at a meeting May 11, 1730, to treat with Mr. Shattuck concerning his dismissal, and the meeting adjourned to the first Monday in June, when it was voted to refer the matter to the church, so that a church meeting might be called with Mr. Shattuck's son, for the purpose of calling a council to settle the affair.

The church, however, came to an agreement with the minister without the aid of a council, and upon the report of that fact to a town-meeting August 24th, it agreed to his dismissal by a council to be called, and his salary to the middle of the following May was voted.

The town began immediately, however, to hear candidates preach, and probably Mr. Shattuck did not officiate farther.

With the prospect of a new minister the town began to consider building a new meeting-house, and in December, 1730, it was voted that when the town should think proper to build, the location should be on the Ridge Hill, as it was then called, describing the present location of the First Congregational (Unitarian) Church.

In the following July the town voted to call Rev. Daniel Rogers, who is previously referred to as "Son of y^e worshipfull Mr. Dan^l. Rogers, Esq^r," which has lately preached at Byfield." The word "which" here refers, I think, to the son, as I cannot find that his father was a minister.

The town voted £200 for his settlement and a yearly salary of £100, but that does not seem to have been sufficient to secure him, and in October the offer of settlement was raised to £300 and of salary to £140 a year, to rise and fall with silver, the standard to be eighteen shillings per ounce. Mr. Rogers accepted and was ordained March 15, 1731-32.

There is a tradition that Mr. Rogers was descended from John Rogers, the martyr, but that is denied by so good an authority as Mr. John Ward Dean, of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Mr. Rogers was, however, a grandson of Rev. John Rogers, president of Harvard College, and great-grandson of Rev. Nathaniel Rogers, who came from England about 1636, and settled in Ipswich, and was born in Ipswich October 17, 1706, and graduated at Harvard College in 1725. His first marriage was in 1734-35 to Mary, daughter of Rev. John Whiting, of Concord. She died three days after the death of her child in February, 1738. In May, 1739, Mr. Rogers married for his second wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Dummer, widow of Samuel Dummer, of Wilmington, and daughter of Rev. Samuel Ruggles, of Billerica,—they had nine children.

One of his sons, Jeremiah Dummer Rogers, a lawyer, was one of the addressors of Hutchinson in 1774, and removed to Boston. He was a Tory, and, after the battle of Bunker Hill, was appointed commissary to the Royal troops that continued to occupy Charlestown, and lived in a house on the present site of the Unitarian Church, corner of Main and Green Streets. At the time of the evacuation of Boston he went with other Royalists to Halifax, where he died in 1784. His son, of the same name, became a classical teacher in England, though a Harvard graduate, and had Lord Byron for one of his pupils. Daniel Rogers, another son of Rev. Daniel Rogers, continued to live in Littleton, and ended his days there.

An ordination in those days must have been quite an affair. The town entertained liberally and paid bills for the same to the amount of £41, for Mr. Rogers' ordination.

The meeting-house question came up again in 1738, and the question was whether to move the old one or build new. June 12th the town voted not to move the old meeting-house, and, on December 25th, voted to build a new one, and chose a committee of seven to see what to do with the old one and decide on dimensions of the new one. No money appears to have been appropriated for the meeting-house until November 5, 1739, and probably nothing definite was done until then, when £250 was voted in part. November 19th, £350 more was appropriated, and decided that the building should be forty by fifty feet with twenty-three feet posts. The Building Committee were Maj. Eleazer Lawrence, Deacon John Wood and Benjamin Hoar. £300 more were voted in December, 1740, to complete the meeting-house, making £900 in all. The building was not completed until 1742. Those who had private pews built them at their own cost, except Mr. Rogers and Mr. Shattuck, for whom and their families, the town built pews. Mr. Rogers had his at the foot of the pulpit-stairs and Mr. Shattuck in the rear, on the women's side.

This meeting-house had a gallery, which the former one probably had not, but I have no reason to sup-

pose there was any great change in the arrangement of pews from that in the old one.

About the time of which I am writing, a serious trouble arose between the proprietors of Littleton and the town of Stow about the boundary between the two towns, and quite a tract of land, in what is now Boxborough, was claimed by Stow, but finally relinquished after a long lawsuit lasting many years, and after attempts to get action in favor of Stow by the Legislature. I find records referring to the matter in 1732, 1740 and in 1750.

In this suit Littleton Proprietors' Record-Book was used as evidence, and by mistake was not returned to the town until Mr. Richard H. Dana, the second of that name, found it among some old papers, a century or more afterward. Littleton's counsel was Mr. Edmund Trowbridge, and I have been told that Mr. Dana married into the Trowbridge family.

An addition to the territory of the town was made January 4, 1738-39, when the General Court granted the petition of Peleg Lawrence and others, of Groton, so far as that they and their estates be set off to Littleton, thereby probably establishing the present line. Groton did not oppose that part of the petition, but opposed and prevented the establishment of the line as originally asked for, which they claimed would include part of their proprietors' land. Peleg Lawrence lived near the brook by North Littleton Station, where the cellar-hole may yet be seen.

A curious entry occurs in the town records under date of May 27, 1751, as follows:

"Voted to accept Jacob negro, son of Caesar, for an inhabitant of this town in case Mr. Peter Reed give up the bill of sale of said negro to the town and write a discharge."

That gives the town an anti-slavery record of early date. Slaves were owned in town, however, much later.

Within the first thirty-five years of the existence of the town a great many roads were laid out and recorded in the town-book. Most of them were merely paths, marked by blazed trees, following very tortuous routes, quite different from the present roads.

For instance, the road from Chelmsford to Groton was through the Old Common, turning beyond Mr. Shattuck's (now Mrs. Eliza Hartwell's) to the right through Turkey Swamp and across Beaver Brook to the Farr place, where Mr. Chas. P. Hartwell now lives, then through the New Estate, turning eastward to Saml. Dudley's, near the mill pond, from whence it went to Pingreyville; a branch probably turned to the left past Saml. Hunt's tavern, near Mr. Peter S. Whitcomb's house.

The first road to Newtown started from the Old Common, a short distance east of the house of the late Capt. Luther White.

The road to the south part of the town passed Joseph Baker's, which was at a spot now marked by a large elm, midway between Mr. W. H. Tenney's and the Haley place, from whence it went past a cellar-



William Kimball

hole and spring in the woods which locates the house of Capt. Joseph Harwood, and thence on through the valley to the place now owned by Mr. J. A. Priest, then owned by one of the Powers family, and so on.

Under the system of representation in the Legislature which was in force a century and a half ago the members of the lower House were elected by the towns, and Littleton was obliged to send a Representative once in a certain number of years, and also obliged to pay him.

The result was that the town very frequently failed to send a Representative and was repeatedly fined by the General Court therefor. The year following the fine the town would elect a Representative for the sole purpose, apparently, of getting the fine remitted. A fine or some question before the Legislature regarding Littleton's territory seems to have been the only incentive to representation. On one occasion the town voted to send a Representative if any one would go for half-pay, and on another if for £12. In this last instance Captain Isaac Powers accepted the offer and was elected without opposition.

In the year 1749 the town offered, in connection with some of the adjoining towns, a bounty for wolves' heads in addition to that offered by the Province, with the condition that the ears be cut off to prevent a second claim for bounty on the same head.

Almost invariably previous to the year 1800, and frequently after that, it was customary to vote every March meeting that the swine be allowed to go at large the year ensuing.

Hog-reeves were chosen, whose duty it was to insert a ring in each swine's nose to curtail the amount of damage he could do by rooting.

Littleton was represented in the French and Indian War, as she has always been in every struggle in behalf of the State and the nation, by brave and able men.

Colonel John Porter, when only sixteen years of age, enlisted as a captain's waiter and was at the battle of Ticonderoga. He was taken with the small-pox, and his mother, on hearing of it, hired a man to go and care for him. This person took the money, but soon reported that young Porter was dead. The rascal had, in fact, never been near him, but in spite of neglect Porter recovered, and great was the surprise and joy of his family, who lived where Deacon Manning now lives, to see him appear one day, weak after his sickness and tired, sitting to rest on a log near the house.

The 19th of April, 1775, found him returning from Beverly through Lexington. The British troops had just marched out toward Concord. Porter procured a gun and ammunition of a Lexington farmer, leaving his horse as security, and joined the minute-men who fought the regulars on their return from Concord.

He served all through the Revolution, enlisting as ensign and working up to be lieutenant, captain,

adjutant and major. At one time he was a recruiting officer, and also served on the staff of Gen. Lafayette. He was at the battle of Bennington and afterward sent home three or four of the Hessians there captured, to work as laborers on his farm, while he remained at the front. He was present at the surrender of Cornwallis.

His title of colonel was acquired in the militia, after the war. Colonel Porter was a man of great force of character, but had only such education as he picked up himself.

It is said that his wife taught him to read.

Previous to the outbreak of the French War, on July 14, 1748, Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., and Ephraim Powers, of Littleton, were in a squad of seventeen men, who were traveling from Northfield to Fort Dummer and Ashuelot. They were attacked by Indians, who captured Lawrence and took him to Canada. Powers was stripped of clothing, arms and ammunition and wounded in the head. In the latter part of the war we find Jonathan Lawrence in Capt. Leonard Whiting's company in 1760-61 in the "expedition for the total reduction of Canada," and with him the following other Littleton men: Sergt. Peter Procter, Sergt. Peter Fox, Ephraim Corey, Jonathan Hartwell, who died in the expedition, George Hiber, Joseph Hartwell, Robert Procter, Josiah Procter, Moses Shattuck, David Stimpson, Samuel Tredwell, David Trull, Abel Whitcomb, Silas Whitcomb and Benjamin Worster. Captain Whiting then lived in Westford, but soon after moved to Littleton, where he kept tavern and was living here from 1764 to 1772 at least. He afterwards lived in Hollis, N. H., and was a Tory during the War of the Revolution.

By the courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society I am enabled to copy from the original journal of Lieutenant-Colonel John Winslow, dated Basen of Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, May 28, 1755, the names of many residents or natives of Littleton. It reads:

"A Return of Lieutenant Col^d John Winslow's Company in the First Battalion of his Excellency, Gov^r Shirley's Regiments, rais'd for the removing the French Encroachments from his Majesty's Government of Nova Scotia, Showing the names of the non-Commis^d officers and Private men their station age Place of Birth Last residence and occupation. . . .

"John Trainer, Private, 19, Leyth, Scotland, Littleton, Baker.

Capt. Humphrey Hobbs' Comp^y.

Ephraim Warrin, Private, 18, Littleton, Littleton, Lab^r.

Captain Osgood Company.

Isaac Lawrence, Sergeant, 24, Littleton, Littleton, Cooper.

David Powers, Corporal, 33, Littleton, Littleton, Husbandman.

Walter Powers, Private, 23, Littleton, Littleton, Husbandman.

Isaac Whitcombe, Private, 21, Littleton, Littleton, Cordwainer.

Abel Hunt, Private, 22, Littleton, Littleton, Husbandman.

Peter Hunt, Private, 26, Littleton, Littleton, Cordwainer.

John Robins, Private, 28, Littleton, Littleton, Cooper.

Charles Robins, Private, 25, Littleton, Littleton, Brickmaker.

Timothy Colleigh, Private, 17, Littleton, Littleton, Laborer.

Ephraim Wheeler, Private, 21, Littleton, Littleton, Cordwainer.

Abner Whitcombe, Private, 21, Littleton, Littleton, Husbandman.

Benja^s Munroe, Private, 19, Lexington, Littleton, Laborer.
 Phineas Parker, Private, 21, Grotton, Littleton, Husbandman.
 James Miller, Private, 20, Billeica, Littleton, Brickmaker.
 Thomas Whitcomb, Private, 19, Littleton, Littleton, Laborer.

Major Joseph Fryes Company.

John Adams, Private, 19, Littleton, Andover, Cordwainer.

Major William Bourns Company.

Thomas Edwards, Private, 22, Littleton, Oxford, Carpenter.

Captain Elijah Willards Company.

Aaron Taylor, Corporal, 25, Littleton, Lunenburg, Husbandman.

Tim^s Baker, Private, 24, Littleton, Petersham, Taylor.

John Taylor, Private, 25, Littleton, Lunenburg, Laborer.

Captain Ephraim Jones Company.

Oliver Edward, Private, 20, Littleton, Stow, Laborer.

Eliot Powers, Private, 22, Littleton, Acton, Husbandman."

Capt. John Fox, of Littleton, was also in the French War. He returned sick from the expedition on the Kennebec River, and after six weeks' illness died.

Others of his family took the same disease from him, and on petition from his wife the Legislature granted money in aid of herself and family. Capt. Fox kept tavern in the Centre, and after his death his wife continued the business.

As we approach the period of the War of the Revolution, it is well to take, as far as we are able, a general view of the town. What was Littleton in those days, we ask? Not so very different from the Littleton of to-day.

The population varied not more than one hundred from the present, though the territory was larger, including a large section of Boxborough, and therefore the people were rather more scattered. In the year 1776 the population was 918.

The church stood on the same spot as the present Unitarian Church. The town had just bought a new bell, and had hung it not on the church, but on a convenient frame near by. The committee to buy it, reported that it was made in "this Province," and cost £78 0s. 9½d. Very many of the names now familiar were then in town, such as Robbins, Lawrence, Whitcomb, Tuttle, Taylor, Hartwell, Jewett, Harwood, Tenney, Sanderson, Reed, Brown, Proctor, Warren, Hoar, Dodge, Kimball, Patch and others. Even the farms are in many cases held in the same families now as then.

It is very interesting to trace the growth of public sentiment in town concerning the relations of the colonies with the mother country.

The indignation at the exactions and oppressive acts of the British government was spontaneous and unanimous; but later on, when protests, entreaties and demands had not availed, and matters wore a more serious aspect, when it began to dawn upon the colonists that their only hope for justice lay in revolution, then it was that a difference of opinion was evolved, which increased with the progress of events until the line between patriot and Tory was clearly drawn.

When we think of how the colonists, with their scanty resources and slight preparation, resisted, made war on and finally vanquished the greatest power on earth, it seems as if they accomplished impossibilities, which it would be madness to attempt.

It was not strange, then, that there were many conservative and intelligent people, who considered it folly to attempt to resist the government of England; they deprecated the state of affairs, but saw no prospect of relief in war, and in most cases were further influenced in their opinions by ties of friendship and relation to the mother country. That class was represented in Littleton by Rev. Daniel Rogers and at least one of his sons, also by Capt. Joseph Harwood, and his son of the same name, as well as by others. Mr. Rogers was then an old man, had been pastor for many years, and was universally loved and respected. He was a cultured and refined gentleman, a graduate of Harvard College, and connected with some of the best families in the Province. His sons were able and educated men, and took an active part in town affairs. Others of the Tory sympathizers were prominent men in town and, with Dummer Rogers, had been the leaders so long as matters had drifted along in the old way; but when the issue came, and feeling began to run high, they found themselves a small minority, and had to suffer the consequences at the intense feeling which prevailed against them.

They were suddenly dropped from the list of town officers and vigorously dealt with. Many of them were put under guard, including one of the writer's ancestors, and even Rev. Mr. Rogers was summoned by an armed squad to come out of his house and declare his principles. When he hesitated, perhaps considering it beneath his dignity to comply with such a demand, a volley was fired into his front door. The bullets passed through the door and entered the casing just below the stairs upon which Mr. Rogers was standing. He then complied. He lived where Mr. George Whitcomb now lives, in the house which has since been moved down the hill toward Mr. Frost's. Many persons, including the writer, have seen the bullet-holes in the old door, which has since been replaced by a new one, and those in the casing may be seen to-day.

Of the patriots, William Henry Prentice seems to have been one of the leaders. He kept a tavern at or near where Mr. Everett E. Kimball lives, and we may readily imagine that as the headquarters where each evening the earnest patriot farmers, many of them minute-men, gathered to hear the latest news from Boston and to discuss it excitedly over mugs of flip.

To go back now to 1770. The following article, copied from the *Boston Gazette* of March 12th, of that year, the same issue in which appeared an account of the Boston Massacre, so called, gives an idea of the unanimous feeling in the town over the taxes imposed by Parliament on imported goods:



B. Dodge

"At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Littleton, in the County of Middlesex, on Monday, Mar. 5, 1770, a Committee was chosen to prepare certain Votes to be passed by the Town relating to the Importation of British Goods who after retiring a Short Time into a private Room, returned and reported the following which was unanimously Voted.

"The grievous Impositions the Inhabitants of the British Colonies have long suffered from their Mother Country, strongly claim their Attention to every legal Method for their Removal. We esteem the Measure already proposed, viz. : the withdrawing our Trade from England, both oeconomic and effectual. We do therefore Vote

"1. That we will not (knowingly), directly or indirectly, purchase any Goods which now are or hereafter may be imported contrary to the Agreement of the Merchants of the Town of Boston.

"2. That if any Inhabitant of the town of Littleton shall be known to purchase any one Article of an Importer of Goods contrary to the before mentioned Agreement or of any one who shall buy of any such Importer he shall suffer our high Displeasure and Contempt.

"3. That a Committee be chosen to inspect the Conduct of all Buyers and Sellers of Goods in this Town, and report the Names of all if any such there should be, who shall violate the true Spirit and Intention of the above-mentioned Votes and Resolutions.

"4. That we will not drink or purchase any foreign Tea howsoever Imported until a general Importation of British Goods shall take Place."

The committee who reported these resolutions were Samuel Tuttle, Leonard Whiting, Samuel Rogers, Robert Harris and Nathan Raymond.

Matters went on from bad to worse throughout the Colonies, and in November, 1772, when Boston under the leadership of Samuel Adams came to an issue with Governor Hutchinson about the stipendiary judges, and the rights of towns to discuss such matters, and the Boston Committee of Correspondence was chosen, with instructions to appeal to all the towns in the Province, "that," as they said, "the collected wisdom and fortitude of the whole people might dictate measures for the rescue of their happy and glorious Constitution." A letter and pamphlet were received from the Boston Committee of Correspondence, and at a town-meeting in Littleton, December 31st, it was voted to choose a committee of five to consider the same and make a report to the town. The committee consisted of J. Dunmer Rogers, Jona. Reed, Captain Joseph Harwood, Sr., Captain Josiah Hartwell and Samuel Reed.

From this time we must date the division of this town into patriots and Tories. The committee was divided in their report, which was made at an adjourned meeting for that purpose on February 1, 1773.

The majority of the committee, which we can confidently assume included Dunmer Rogers and Captain Harwood, reported verbally "not to have the town act any further upon that article." That was the conservative view, represented by those who must thenceforth be called Tories. They feared a conflict with the authorities, and tried to smother the correspondence with Samuel Adams and the Boston patriots.

The town rejected the majority report, and then accepted the draft of a paper laid before them, and chose a Committee of Correspondence.

At the annual meeting, March 1, 1773, the draft, amended by the addition of more grievances, was accepted and ordered to be transmitted, with a respect-

ful letter of thanks, to the Boston Committee of Correspondence.

This amended paper was as follows :

"The British Constitution appears to us to be the best calculated to answer the ends which mankind proposed to themselves in forsaking the natural state of Independence and entering into Society than perhaps any form of Government under Heaven, as here we find a more perfect union of the three Great Qualities of Government than could be expected in any other form; it is therefore of high Importance that those who live under this Constitution should in all proper ways endeavor to preserve it Inviolable; it was the Happiness of our forefathers who came into this Land to bring with them the Liberties and Immunities of Englishmen and to be entitled to the Privileges of the British Constitution, under which they and their Descendants have enjoyed great Security and Happiness. But in consequence of some acts of the British Parliament, which are daily execrating by officers and men unknown in the Charter of the Province, whereby a Revenue is imposed on this as well as the other Colonies, and extorted from us and appropriated to most destructive purposes, the establishing the salaries of several of the first men in this Province, and also of the Judges of the Superior Court, thereby making them independent of the people, and making them depend on the Crown for their support, the great extension of the power of the Courts of Admiralty, the unlimited authority of the Board of Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs; all which we look upon to be great grievances; the quartering of soldiers upon us in time of peace, without our consent; the demanding and giving up Castle William, our chief fortress, into the hands of those over whom our Governor has declared he has no control, is a great violation of one of our Charter Rights—for thereby the Governor for the time being has full power to erect Forts, and to furnish them with all things necessary, and to commit the custody of the same to such person or persons as to him shall seem meet. The frequent alterations of the Boundaries between this and the other colonies we think we have just reason to complain of; for thereby the property of many hundreds of the inhabitants of this province are invaded.

"We are greatly alarmed by a late act of the British Parliament entitled An Act for the better preserving his Majestys Dock Yards, Magazines, Ships, Ammunitions and Stores; By this act any person may be apprehended on the most groundless pretence and carried to any part of Great Britain for trial; the thoughts of which is enough to make any person having the least sense of the freedom of an Englishman tremble. By this act we are deprived of one of the most essential of our Charter Privileges, that of Trial by our Peers in this Vicinity.

"We are further of the opinion that if the measures so justly complained of by the Provinces and the other Colonies on this continent are persisted in and enforced by fleets and armies, they will, in a little time we fear, issue in the total dissolution of the Union of the Mother Country and the Colonies, to the entire loss of the former, and regret of the latter—as the General Assembly is now sitting, who are the constitutional guardians of the rights of the people, we hope that Assembly will take every reasonable measure to obtain removal of all our grievances; we shall always be ready to join with the towns of this province in a regular and constitutional method in preserving our liberties and privileges."

Note how carefully the town considered the matter and of what importance it was deemed.

It was the decisive step in the policy of the town, and took three town-meetings to settle it, covering nearly the whole winter.

There was no wavering or vacillation, but no haste.

At the Middlesex Convention, held in Concord, August 31, 1774, Littleton was represented by Captain Josiah Hartwell, Oliver Hoar and Daniel Rogers, Jr., and in the first Provincial Congress by Abel Jewett and Robert Harris.

The town records show conclusively that with the opening of the year 1775 the approaching crisis was felt to be near at hand and was prepared for.

Had we any full and accurate history of the events

of that year, we should be astonished at the activity and careful preparation.

There were at least two companies in the course of that year officered by Littleton men, and made up, in a large majority, of privates from this town, a few being from the adjoining towns.

We may imagine them with the early spring, which was a month in advance of the usual season, holding frequent drills and musters, and the town must then have been aglow with military spirit and enthusiasm, which has never been equaled since.

The 19th of April came, and in the early morning a messenger on horseback rode into town with the news that the regulars were on the march to Concord.

The horseman then hurried over Beaver Brook bridge, near Mr. Frost's house, and proceeded to warn other towns.

The Littleton men mustered, ammunition to the amount of fourteen pounds of powder and thirty-eight pounds of bullets was dealt out of the common stock, and the whole squad, including many unenlisted volunteers, proceeded to Concord, and thence to Cambridge.

The following is the muster-roll of Lieutenant Aquila Jewett's company who marched that day :

Aquila Jewett, Lieutenant ; John Porter, Matthew Brooks, sergeants ; Daniel Whitcomb, corporal.

Privates, Samuel Lawrence, Jonathan Lawrence, Charles White, Benjamin Warren, Peter Robbins, Samuel Hartwell, Silas Whitcomb, Eliada Robbins, Joseph Worster, Peter Fox, Job Dodge, Joseph Jewett, Joseph Russell, Thomas Lawrence, Nathan Chase, Willard Merriam, Benjamin Moore, Maxi Jewett, Nathaniel Proctor, Moses Sanderson, Joseph Raymond, Ebenezer Phillips, Israel Hinds, Simeon Proctor, Samuel Tenney (tlt), John Dix, William Tenney, Eleazer Lawrence, Thomas Russell, Benjamin Hoar, Benjamin Hartwell, John Green, John Whiting, Jr., Stephen Tuttle, Thomas Stearns, Sampson Warren, Daniel Tuttle, Peter Reed, Oliver Hartwell, Thomas Wood, Benjamin Worster, John Tuttle.

A few of the men dropped out at Concord, but the most of them are put down as having marched twenty-six miles and having served nineteen days.

Jonathan Warren and Nathaniel Whitcomb also received ammunition, and so were probably either in another company or went as unenlisted volunteers.

Among the rolls of the army at Cambridge made up to August 1, 1775, is another company, mostly composed of Littleton men, which was probably organized after the Concord fight. The list is as follows :

Captain, Samuel Gilbert ; Lieutenants, Joseph Gilbert, Joseph Baker, Jr. ; Sergeants, Daniel Kimball, Jacob Porter, Thomas Treadwell, Ephraim Proctor ; Corporals, Ezra Baker, Jonathan Cowdry.

Privates, Joseph Baker, Cornelius Bachelor, Benjamin Cox, Lemuel Dole, James Dutton, Benjamin Durant, John Dinmore, Benjamin Dole, William Farr, Samuel Hunt, Joseph Heywood, Moses Holden, Isaac Lawrence, Peter Cummings Gilbert, Elijah Proctor, Jonathan Phelps, Samuel Phillips, Paul Robbins, John Robbins, Isaac Russell, Nathaniel Russell, Oliver Sawyer, James Whittemore, Peter Whitcomb, Isaac Whitcomb,—with others from Lancaster, Dunstable and other towns.

This company of Captain Gilbert's was also in Colonel Prescott's regiment, and took part in the battle of Bunker Hill, in which were killed Peter Whitcomb,

Benjamin Dole, John Lawrence, James Whittemore and Isaac Whitcomb.

In addition to those whose names have been given, the following served for Littleton in the continental army, at various times, during the war :

Amos Atherton, Paul Brown, Peter Baker, Timothy Baker, William Burke, John Cavenier, Joseph Carter, Henry Durant, Jason Dunster, Jesse Dutton, David Baker, John Brown, Lucius Blanchard, Scipio Chase, Hildreth Dutton, Joseph Dole, John Dodge, John Dix, Jonathan Fletcher, John Foster, Solomon Foster, Jonathan Langley Fisher, James Holden, John Hartwell, Captain Aaron Jewett, William Johnson, William Johnson, Jr., John Kilburn, Abel Lawrence, Reuben Leighton, Joseph Lewis, Jonathan Longley, Joseph Longley, Scipio Negro, Thomas Nutting, Peter Oliver, Charles Phipps, Timothy Proctor, Samuel Pool, Abel Proctor, Amos Parling, Jr., Zachary Robbins, Jonathan Russell, John Russell, Jr., Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Reed, Samuel Reed, Samuel Reed, Jr., Artemas Reed, Nathaniel Reed, William Smith, Samuel Stearns, Levi Shepherd, Robert Sever, Amos Shed, William Tenney, Joeniah Temple, Jonathan Tuttle, John Wood (3d), Sergeant Peter Wheeler, Peter Wright, Stephen Wright, Jacob Warren, Samuel White, William Whiting, Jonathan Wetherbee, Second Lieutenant Ephraim Whitcomb, Paul Whitcomb.

These names have been collected by the writer from the Revolutionary rolls in the State archives, and from town records and vouchers. The number is surprisingly large. That 150 men, or nearly seventy-five per cent. of the male population, of military age, should have taken part in the war, speaks volumes for the patriotism of the town, and, as well, shows the desperate character of the struggle. The male population of sixteen years of age, and over, was only 209 on January 1, 1777.

The smoke from the burning of Charlestown was distinctly seen in Littleton, and caused great alarm.

In May the town had voted to purchase a stock of fire-arms with bayonets, the number to be left to the discretion of the selectmen, who were that year Major Jonathan Reed, Jonathan Patch, Samuel Gilbert, William Henry Prentice and Aaron Jewett. Notice that three out of the five afterwards served as officers in the continental army.

At a town-meeting held June 17, 1776, at which William Henry Prentice was moderator, the following vote, in accordance with the recommendation of the General Court, was passed after some debate and motions to adjourn, which were not carried :

"If the Hon^r Congress should, for the Safety of the Colonies, Declare them Independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, the Inhabitants of Littleton engage to support them in the measure."

On October 14th following, the town voted its consent to the plan proposed by a resolve of the House of Representatives that the Council and House should propose a State Constitution to be submitted to the people.

In March, 1777, the town voted a bounty of £18 in addition to the State bounty, for every three years' soldier who should make one for its quota, and also voted "to take up the matter at large from the 19th of April, 1775, and Chuse a Committee to apprise each Campaign and make an Everage according to their poles and Rateable Estates, as other Taxes are Levied, and that each man shall have credite for what he has done."



Edmund Foster

As the war progressed and more men were called for, it became difficult to procure them, and no wonder, when we consider the great number who went from this small town, and at one meeting it was impossible to choose a committee who would serve to hire men.

The fluctuations of continental money were extremely embarrassing, and a large number of bounties were paid in rye and other produce, which was preferred to paper money. As high as £2550 in paper money was paid for a single bounty.

On December 21, 1780, the town voted "100 hard dollars or other specie equivalent & 1 Pr. good shirts, shoes & stockings, to be delivered yearly in October, so long as they serve, to all soldiers who enlist accordingly."

By summing up the various appropriations for the payment of soldiers and purchase of supplies, as recorded on the town records, I find they amount to the enormous sum of £126,172 16s. 10d., or its equivalent in produce.

It must be remembered, however, that this was not all hard money, but much of it was continental paper currency. While on the other hand it is probable that this sum does not include a great deal of money which was paid out on account of the war, but did not appear under specific appropriations.

Captain Aaron Jewett was a delegate from Littleton to the Constitutional Convention of 1779. This gentleman, after serving in the war, became a Shaker, and was one of the founders of the Harvard Shakers.

Rev. Mr. Rogers, being quite advanced in years, asked a dismissal in January, 1776. Not desiring to have him sever his connection with them, the church voted not to dismiss him, whereupon Mr. Rogers proposed that he continue his relations to the church as minister, but relinquish his salary in future and be released from obligation to perform ministerial services.

This proposition was accepted, and the town began to look for a colleague, and it is noticeable that at this time the initiative in ecclesiastical matters was taken by the church meeting, which first took action, and afterwards the town voted on concurrence. After calling two ministers as colleagues, first Mr. Wheaton, then Mr. John Bullard, who do not appear to have accepted, and then waiting for some time, finally in October, 1780, Mr. Edmund Foster was called, and accepted, at a salary of £80 a year, based on the value of certain articles of consumption, such as corn, pork, beef, &c., as recorded, and a settlement of £200.

Mr. Foster was ordained at Littleton January 17, 1781, and succeeded to the ministry on the death of Mr. Rogers, in November, 1782.

Mr. Foster was born in North Reading, Massachusetts, April 18, 1752, and was left an orphan when seven years old; he worked his way through Yale College, and afterwards studied for the ministry. Both Harvard and Yale conferred honorary degrees

upon him. While a divinity student he shouldered his musket and went to face the enemy at Concord and Lexington.

He represented his district both in the Senate and House, after the War of 1812 (in which three of his sons held commissions); on one occasion he preached the Election sermon, and was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1820. He died March 28, 1826, in the forty-sixth year of his ministry.

Mr. Foster assumed his duties as colleague to Mr. Rogers under very adverse circumstances; he was called against the opposition of a minority, who recorded a protest signed by forty-six persons. The town was impoverished by the cost of the war, and in 1782-83 by severe drouth, and was in the midst of the hardest times ever seen in this country.

It was found difficult to raise his salary, and he was obliged on one occasion to bring suit before he got it. The town settled and paid costs.

The hard times, as is always the case, made discontent, the church was badly out of repair, so much so that it had to be propped up, and furthermore a movement was started a few years before Mr. Foster came to set off the south part of the town for the purpose of forming a new parish, which resulted in the formation of first the district and finally the town of Boxborough.

The first reference to this matter appears in the town records under date of November 4, 1778, when the town chose a committee consisting of Deacon Josiah Hartwell, Jonathan Reed, Esq. and Mr. Daniel Rogers, Jr., to wait on the General Court and show reason why the south part of the town should not be set off as petitioned for. The same committee was chosen for the same purpose in the following February, and in July there was an article in the town warrant to see if the town would "vote off" that part of the town to form a new parish, with parts of Stow and Harvard. The town voted against it.

In October, 1780, a vote was passed to take the names of those who wished to be set off, and it is recorded that Bennet Wood, Phis Wetherbee, Israel Wetherbee, Abel Fletcher, Ephraim Whitcomb, Edward Brown and Boston Draper appeared.

In February, 1781, the town again chose a committee to oppose the petition to the General Court. This attempt to form a new town or parish was a failure, as had been the previous one, but in March, 1782, Silas Taylor and sixty-nine others petitioned the General Court again, stating that they were at a great distance from the meeting-houses in the towns to which they belong, to remedy which they had built a house for public worship in a convenient place and procured preaching much of the time for several years previous, but had not been excused from paying for the support of preaching in some of the towns to which they belonged, and praying to be incorporated into a town, district or parish. The petition was referred to the second session, in September, when the

committee to which it had been referred reported that the petitioners who belonged to the towns of Stow and Harvard should be incorporated into a district with such of the inhabitants of Littleton as were included in the petition, and should, within the space of twelve months, signify that they desired to belong to the said district and no other.

Littleton people had evidently been caught napping, but as soon as they learned of the report of the committee they sent to the General Court two remonstrances, one signed by the selectmen and the other by Samuel Lawrence, Elias Taylor, Thomas Wood, Daniel Whitcomb, Jonathan Patch, Nathaniel Cobleigh, John Wood, Solomon Foster and Jedediah Taylor, living within the bounds of the proposed district. It was, however, too late, and a bill was passed February 25, 1783, which, after stating the boundaries, said: "And all the Polls and Estates that are included within the said boundaries shall belong to said District, except those of such of the inhabitants of that part set off from Littleton as shall not, within the term of twelve months from the passing of this Act, return their names unto the office of the Secretary of this Commonwealth, signifying their desire to become inhabitants of the said District." The result of this was, that while a number returned their names as desiring to join the new district, yet others, to the number of thirteen or more, did not, but preferred to remain in Littleton.

In June, 1793, Boxborough, which had become a town, petitioned the General Court to establish an obvious and uncontrovertible boundary between that town and Littleton, against which the thirteen citizens of Littleton who had the right to join Boxborough, but had not done so, remonstrated, stating that they believed the object of the petition was "more to divide them from the town of Littleton than to ascertain more certain boundaries." Thereupon the Legislature passed the act of February 20, 1794, which gave the owners of such farms lying on the Boxborough side of the straight line which was originally proposed as the boundary, and who had not joined Boxborough in accordance with the act of 1783, the right to apply to Boxborough to have their polls and estates belong to that town, and the same was to be accomplished upon the vote of Boxborough and proper notice to the town of Littleton. This right was to go with the ownership of the land. In the course of time all the farms in question had been transferred to Boxborough save two, owned in 1868 by Henry T. Taylor and Wm. H. Hartwell. At that time Boxborough petitioned the Legislature to have those farms set off to her, but was unsuccessful. Another attempt was made before the Legislature of the present year, 1890. It was met by opposition on the part of the owners of the two farms, now Deacon Henry T. Taylor and Mrs. Olive Hall, and the town of Littleton, who remonstrated and filed a counter-petition, asking for a new line between the two towns,

which leaves the greater part of the two farms and the buildings on the Littleton side, as well as a small place, formerly in Boxborough, lying between them on Liberty Square, and owned by — Wild, thus doing away with the previous provisions allowing a transfer to Boxborough. The Littleton petition was granted and a bill passed in accordance with it. The Taylor farm is the same which was owned, in 1783, by Deacon Elias Taylor, the ancestor of Deacon Henry T. Taylor, having remained in the family from that time. The Hall farm was then owned by Samuel Lawrence, and was the same where the Lawrence Tavern was kept, the sign to which bore the legend "Pay To-Day & Trust To-morrow," with the picture of an officer with a drawn sword, below which was the word "Entertainment" and date 1768.

As has been stated, the meeting-house was out of repair at the time Mr. Foster came to Littleton, and for several years the question of building a new one or repairing the old one was agitated, and many votes on the subject were passed and afterwards reconsidered. Finally, on December 31, 1792, the decisive vote passed to build anew on the same spot, and the town proceeded to erect its third meeting-house, "40x55 feet, with a steeple and porches." It was completed in the summer of 1794, and was a very imposing structure and really fine for its period. A new bell was procured in 1808.

The meeting-house appears never to have been heated except by religious fervor or a town-meeting discussion until 1818, when, in January, the town voted to have two stoves, provided they were given by subscription. They must have been popular, for in October, 1820, it was thought best to vote "that the town considers that the stove pews are appropriated to elderly people."

The history of the way in which paupers have been cared for in this town is rather interesting. The first pauper on record was the widow, Thanks Dill, concerning whom there appears to have been a question between this town and Concord as to where she belonged. The poor woman was carried back and forth from one town to the other and finally died in Littleton in 1733, whereupon the town expended nine shillings for rum for her funeral and a further sum for gloves used on the same occasion. It was a common thing to carry paupers to other towns to get rid of them, and to warn out of town persons who were likely to become a charge against the town.

In 1787 paupers were put out by vendue, among them several illegitimate children. In 1798 the town voted to hire a house for the town's poor. The town farm was purchased in 1825.

Any one walking up Everett E. Kimball's lane to the top of Long Pond Hill will see the remains of a road which formerly ran where the lane is over the highest part of the hill to the Haley place. The records show that this road, from William Henry Prentice's to Edward Baker's, as it was described, was ex-



SIGN OF THE LAWRENCE TAVERN,
The present Residence of DAVID HALL.

This sign now hangs in the REUBEN HOAR LIBRARY, to which it was
presented by MRS. WILLIAM H. HARTWELL.



COL. NAHUM HAPWOOD



COL. WM. J. SMITH

changed, in 1789, for the present road to Newtown, turning off by the present residence of William H. Tenney, and that the road was turned a little to one side so as not to obstruct Dea. Oliver Hoar's "out seller," thus showing the antiquity of Mr. Tenney's side-hill cellar.

In 1801 the town voted to buy a piece of land of Mr. Rogers and others in front of the meeting-house to enlarge the road and Common. The line, as then located, ran very close to where the rear wall of the town-hall now stands, and a strip was added to give space behind the building when it was erected in 1886.

The town records make no allusion to the War of 1812, but from other sources the names of three Littleton men who served have been obtained as follows: Sampson Warren, who returned from the war sick and died at home, Micajah Rice and Reuben Durant. No doubt others from this town also served in that war.

December 4, 1815, Rev. Mr. Foster preached a century sermon on the history of the town. It was an able and interesting discourse and the writer is indebted to it for much information. From it we learn that the post-office at that time was on the "great road," probably at the "long store," now the dwelling-house of Charles F. Watts. * The town voted to print three hundred copies of Mr. Foster's sermon to distribute to every family and sell the rest for the benefit of Mr. Foster.

Up to 1822 there had been but one church, the town church, and as we have seen, church business was done in town-meeting by the town acting in its capacity as a parish.

On March 14, 1824, the Baptist Society was organized with twelve members. ~~It had been intended to organize on the 7th, but the town voted to refuse them the use of the church for that purpose on that date.~~ Rev. Benjamin Willard had preached for the Baptists previous to their organization at various times from 1820 and until 1823. There was also preaching in the interest of other denominations about this time.

In April, 1821, the town voted leave to Aaron Tuttle and others to have preaching in the West School-house on Sundays.

These inroads on his flock were naturally distasteful to Mr. Foster and he took vigorous measures to oppose them. On several occasions he attended the meetings and addressed the audience in refutation of the doctrines there promulgated, and once he took possession of the meeting with the announcement that he was the minister of the town, and proceeded to conduct the services and then dismissed the audience, so that they had no opportunity to hear the speakers who were present to address them.

In the church Mr. Foster had ruling elders appointed to assist him in bringing back to communion those who absented themselves to hear the "itinerant and disorderly preachers." A few were brought back, but

many joined the Baptist Society and all received individually a vote of public censure.

The Baptists built their first meeting-house in 1822, on the corner of the road leading to the north part of the town, where now stands the house of the late John P. Tuttle. It was built of brick, and was dedicated July 9, 1823. Rev. Amasa Sanderson was ordained their minister at the same time and continued his pastorate until March 23, 1831.

The succeeding Baptist ministers have been: Rev. Silas Kenney, 1831-34; Rev. O. Ayer, 1837-43; Rev. T. H. Lunt, April, 1844, to March, 1845; Rev. Aaron Haynes, April, 1845-47; Rev. B. H. Clift, June, 1847, to February, 1848; Rev. George Matthews, May, 1848-52; Rev. F. E. Cleaves, June, 1852, to October, 1857; Rev. D. F. Lampson, July, 1858, to April, 1861; Rev. C. M. Willard, August, 1861, to November, 1867; Rev. C. L. Frost, August, 1868, to June, 1869; Rev. J. F. Morton, September, 1869, to September, 1872; Rev. B. N. Sperry, January, 1873, to May, 1875; Rev. William Read, July, 1875, to May, 1878; Rev. Paul Gallaher, November, 1878, to November, 1880; Rev. W. H. Evans, December, 1880, to July, 1883; Rev. R. G. Johnson, December, 1883, to August, 1888; Rev. William J. Clones, September, 1888.

The brick meeting-house was burned, probably by an incendiary August 5, 1840, and the present wooden one built at the Old Common and dedicated in June, 1841. Within a few years it has been raised and a vestry built in the basement.

After the death of Mr. Foster the town voted, October 29, 1827, to call Rev. William H. White to settle as minister. He was born in Lancaster, Mass., in 1798, and lived on a farm in Westminster until he was twenty-one years old, when he fitted for college under the tuition of Rev. Dr. Stearns, of Lincoln.

Mr. White graduated at Brown University in 1824, and at Cambridge Divinity School in 1827. He received a call to preach in Kingston, Mass., but preferred Littleton, where he was ordained January 2, 1828.

It is said that it had long been his ambition to settle in this town and to win the daughter of his predecessor, Sarah Bass Foster, to whom he was married a year after his ordination.

He was an earnest, active and able man, and the church and town still feels and will feel the benefit of his ministry for years to come, if not for all time.

He was the founder of the Littleton Lyceum, of which an account more in detail will be given later, and of the first Sunday-school in this town. He died July 25, 1853, in the twenty-sixth year of his ministry. He was succeeded by Rev. Frederick R. Newell, September, 1854, to November, 1856; Rev. Eugene De Normandie, February, 1857, to July, 1863; Rev. Albert B. Vorse, June, 1864, to June, 1869; Rev. David P. Muzzey, October, 1869, to April, 1871; Rev. Timothy H. Eddowes, January, 1872, to December,

1872; Rev. Samuel R. Priest, January, 1873, to August, 1874; Rev. J. Wingate Winkley, March, 1876, to July, 1882; Rev. William I. Nichols, October, 1884, to November, 1889; Rev. E. J. Prescott, July, 1890.

In 1841 the society took down their old church and built the present one on the same spot, the fourth building of the First Congregational Society. In 1882 a vestry, with dining-room and kitchen below, were added to the rear of the church.

Within a few years of each other were formed three other religious societies in this town, of which only one has survived; they were the Universalist, the Unionist and the Orthodox Congregational.

The Universalists held meetings in the Centre School-house and in Chamberlain's Hall from 1830 until December, 1846, when they bought at auction the meeting-house the Unionists had built a few years previous, a short distance east of the present Union school house, on the road between the Centre and Old Common. The meeting-house was burned probably by an incendiary in 1847, after which the society dispersed.

The Unionists or Millerites were an offshoot of the Baptists, in whose meeting-house William Miller first preached in town. They built the small house before-mentioned in 1840. They had set a time for the destruction of the world. The time came and passed, the society went out of existence, but the world still remains.

The Orthodox Congregational Society was formed March 22, 1840, and the church May 14th, of the same year, with thirty-two members, all or nearly all of whom had withdrawn from the town church, now the First Congregational, Unitarian.

They had held services for some time previously in the hall over the yellow store which stood a short distance west of Dr. R. H. Phelps' house, and continued to use it until their present meeting-house was completed in the fall of 1841.

Their pastors have been Rev. James C. Bryant, October, 1840, to March, 1845; Rev. James M. Bacon, October, 1846, to November, 1849; Rev. Daniel H. Babcock, April, 1851, to February, 1853; Rev. Elihu Loomis, October, 1854, to November, 1870; Rev. George Spaulding, November, 1870, to December, 1871; Rev. Henry E. Cooley, June, 1872, to October, 1874; Rev. George E. Hall, September, 1875, to February, 1877; Rev. William Sewall, March, 1877, to October, 1881; Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, October, 1882, to September, 1884; Rev. John C. Staples, November, 1884, to November, 1889.

In 1882 the church was raised, moved back and a vestry and kitchen built in the basement; a new organ was also added and the church re-dedicated in October of that year.

The church and society celebrated their fiftieth anniversary on May 14th of the present year, 1890, at which time addresses were made by Rev. William G. Tuttle, one of the founders of the church, by several

of the former ministers and a historical address by George A. Sanderson, to whom the writer is indebted for some of the facts here stated.

In ancient times a carriage was taxed as a luxury. The returns for the years 1786, '87, '88 and '89 show that in each of those years there were but two in town, both chaises, though not recorded as owned by the same persons in every year. The owners were: Captain Jonathan Davis, Mr. Jeremiah Cogswell, Captain David Lawrence.

The owners of slaves for the years 1770-71 were:

Nathan Chase, one slave; Captain Leonard Whiting, one slave; Joseph Harwood, two slaves; Captain David Lawrence, one slave; Captain John Russell, one slave; Captain Samuel Preston, one slave; Simon Tuttle, one slave.

A public school appears to have been first established in 1725, for on March 31st of that year the town voted that the selectmen should provide a school-master and "to agree with him," that is, as to pay. They hired John Powers. The following January the town again voted that there should be a school-master and chose a committee consisting of Deacon [Caleb] Taylor, Lieutenant Lawrence and Walter Powers to hire the school-master and, in connection with the selectmen, to order where the school was to be kept in the several parts of the town—in private houses, of course.

There was but one school, and to be fair to all, it kept in various parts of the town, thus usually moving three times during the short time it kept, which was only three or four months a year in all. In 1727 an article to see if the town would build school-houses was voted down. In 1732 it was voted to have school four months in one place—that is, not to move at all for that year.

From 1755 to 1757 Mr. Phillips Payson was the school-master. He was a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1754, of which John Hancock was a member.

From 1758 to 1760 Mr. Samuel Payson was the school-master. He was a Harvard College graduate of 1758.

In May, 1760, the town voted "to abate Mr. Stephen Shattuck the Rates for his Son's Poll y^e last year on condition his Son Goes to college the next year." This was no doubt Benjamin Shattuck, who graduated at Harvard College in 1765.

Mr. Stephen Shattuck, Jr., was the school-master in 1761—he may also have been a Harvard graduate, as the class of 1756 contained that name.

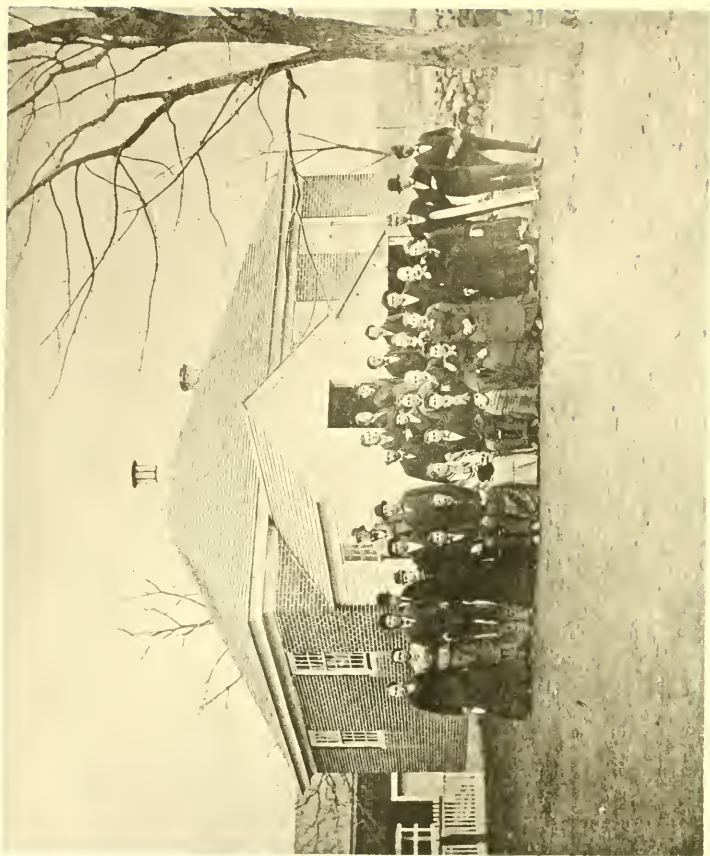
As the town did not build school-houses of its own until the year 1796, the schools, during all the years previous, were kept in buildings owned by private individuals, but it appears that school-houses existed which were no doubt fitted up by their owners and leased to the town.

In 1772 it was put to vote to see if the town should be supplied with school-houses, "proper allowance being made to the present proprietors of the School-Houses," but the proposition was defeated.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITARIAN.

ENGRAVING MADE IN 1886.



CENTRE SCHOOL 1901-02

Showing Rev. W. W. Lovejoy, teacher, and scholars of the first High School in Littleton kept in the autumn of 1901.

It appears to have been quite the custom to have the school-masters of this early period Harvard College graduates who were studying for a profession, and sometimes undergraduates, as in 1785 Mr. Elisha Gardner taught in the Centre and graduated at Harvard the following year.

In 1799 James Green was the school-master. October 7, 1795, the town voted to build five school-houses, but in May following reconsidered and voted to build four. The matter was left in the hands of a committee to buy the land and plan the buildings, which was done probably soon after. This, however, did not settle the question of four or five schools, which caused much feeling and seems to have been carried first one way and then another. The contest was between the Centre people and others who wanted a school located there and the residents in the outer portions of the town, who wanted only four, located in the south, east, north and west parts of the town. The matter hung along until February, 1799, when an attempt was made to settle the dispute by leaving out to a committee from neighboring towns the question whether there should be four or five schools, or what number; but the proposition was voted down.

This, no doubt, came from Centre people, and at the same meeting a motion to appropriate money for a school, to be kept in the old school-house at the Centre, or give certain inhabitants their proportion of the school money was also voted down.

In May, however, the town voted \$100 for "women schools," and to divide it into five equal parts.

In May, 1801, the advocates of four schools again carried the day, and it was voted not to build a school-house in the Centre.

In March of the next year the Centre got its portion of the money for a "woman school" for summer, but in October the town refused them any.

In March, 1808, the appropriation for schools was \$400 for Grammar School, \$150 for Woman School—and these meagre sums were more than had been appropriated in some, or perhaps any, previous years.

The four school-houses built in 1796, or thereabouts, were located as follows: The North was on the great road, east of Beaver Brook, and near the long store, which is now a dwelling-house; the East, or Newtown, was at the corner of the road, a short distance south of Mr. Eldridge Marshall's house; the South was near Mr. J. A. Priest's; the West was near its present location.

All attempts to get a school permanently located in the Centre failed for many years; but Rev. Mr. Foster was earnest in his efforts for it, and was not the man to give up in such a contest; furthermore, the North School became overcrowded, at one time as many as 120 scholars attending in 1820-22, while Mr. Ithamar Beard taught. Finally, on the last day of the year 1821, a vote was carried, 54 to 52, to build a school-house near Daniel Kimball's, now Mr. A. P. Hager's, in the Centre, another in Nashoba, near

Shaker Lane, and to move the North, South and Newtown School-houses. This was reconsidered January 14th, by a vote of 68 to 53; but two weeks later another meeting was held, and the erection of the Centre School-house, though on a different spot, and the removal of the North School-house were agreed to, while other plans submitted by the committee were rejected, and the meeting adjourned to the following Thursday, January 31st, at which time the whole matter of school-houses was settled as follows: The Centre School-house to be built on the town land nearly opposite the church, where it stood until it was removed to make way for the town hall and library building, in 1886, and the bricks used in the hall; the North to be moved to very near the spot occupied by the present North School-house; a new one to be built at Nashoba—still standing, but used as a farm building by Mr. Allen Kimball; Newtown to be moved to Jeremiah Tuttle's land at the foot of the hill, and the South to be moved seventy-eight rods, to very near or at the spot where the railroad crossing now is.

The question has been a hard and vexatious one, and when finally settled the shrewd suggestion was made to build the houses of brick to prevent their being moved at any future time. It was immediately carried. In 1831 new school-houses were built in the north and south parts of the town, on the old locations, and in 1832 at Newtown.

In 1831 began the attempts to get a school-house at the Old Common, which were renewed in various forms, sometimes to get a corporate school district and sometimes to have the town build, until 1843, when, in April, it was voted to build at the Common and move the Nashoba School-house, or to sell it and build another.

This was reconsidered, but again carried, so far as related to the one at the Common. The Nashoba matter was put off, but carried the next year, at March meeting, and a school-house built on or near the present location. At the same meeting a committee was chosen to confer with the directors of the Fitchburg Railroad about moving the South School-house, as it was on or close by the location of the track. It was afterwards moved a short distance south.

As we have seen, the location of school-houses has always been a disturbing element in town politics, and any attempted change has called forth repeated and stormy meetings.

This was the case again shortly after the Civil War, when, after many meetings, it was decided to unite the Centre and Old Common Schools in a graded school, and build the present Union School-house, which was done in 1867. Within the next decade all the other school-houses were rebuilt. Additions were made in 1888 to the Union School house of a room for the High School, and to the West School-house of another room in order to make a graded school of it.

A few years ago a High School was established and kept one term a year, for several years, in the old Centre School-house, which had not been used for school purposes for several years after the erection of the Union School-house. Now the High School is a regularly established school, keeping throughout the whole school year, and with a course of study arranged either to fit for college or to give an English course.

The present principal is Mr. C. H. Harriman, who was preceded by Mr. Ira A. Jenkins, Mr. Edwin C. Burbank and Mr. William H. Snyder.

For a few years the High and Centre Grammar Schools were, for lack of accommodations, kept as one school, with Miss Mary G. Tuttle as assistant.

Running back over some seventy years, the following have been prominent teachers at various times in the public schools:

Miss Josephine Newhall, Miss Nellie M. Jacobs (now Mrs. J. M. Hartwell), Mrs. Ellen F. Johnson, Mr. Albert F. Conant, and his wife (formerly Miss Patten, of Westford), the Misses White (daughters of Rev. W. H. White), Mr. Frank A. Patch, Mr. Laban Warren, Mr. Warren Bolles, Mr. George Stevens, Rev. William G. Tuttle, Mr. Benjamin Kimball, Jr., Rev. Edmund B. Willson (now pastor of the North Society in Salem) Mr. N. B. Edwards, Mr. Henry Prescott, Mr. D. A. Kimball, Mr. Noyes, Mr. Nathan A. Reed, Mr. Otis C. Wright, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Stone, Mr. Ithamer Beard, Mr. Joel Hoar, Mr. M. S. Hager and Mrs. Sophia K. Harwood (formerly Miss Kimball).

THE LITTLETON LYCEUM was organized at a meeting in the Centre School-house, Monday evening, December 21, 1829, after several preliminary meetings had been held, at one of which a constitution had been adopted. The officers chosen were Rev. William H. White, president; Rev. Amasa Sanderson, first vice-president; Hon. Jonathan Hartwell, second vice-president; Col. Nahum Harwood, treasurer; Deacon John M. Hartwell, recording secretary; Mr. Joel Hoar, corresponding secretary; Mr. Benjamin Kimball, Deacon Thomas S. Tuttle, Mr. Nathan Hartwell, curators.

The object of the Lyceum, as stated in the preamble of the constitution, was as follows: "We, the subscribers, feeling desirous of affording every possible facility for the improvement of our schools, feeling the importance of personal cultivation and the general diffusion of useful knowledge, and believing these objects can be best accomplished by united and continued efforts, agree to form a society, under the name of 'The Littleton Lyceum.'"

The founders were the leading men of the town at that time. Rev. Mr. White may be considered the father of the society, and for twenty-three years was its president.

The literary work of the Lyceum began January 5, 1830, with parsing and criticism and reading from

the *North American Review*. January 12th there was reading by the first classes of the schools throughout the town, and the reading of a portion of Hall's lectures on School-keeping. January 19th began a course of three lectures on Astronomy, by Mr. Abel Fletcher, of Boxborough. Two more evenings were occupied by reading on School-keeping, and one by a debate.

From that year down to and including the present the Lyceum has continued and flourished each year without a break, the only one of the many lyceums formed about that time throughout the State which has done so without the lapse of a year or more.

The exercises have changed somewhat, and of late years take more the form of a course of popular lectures and concerts, with, occasionally, a debate or an evening occupied by the schools, as a reminder of the original custom and purpose of the Lyceum. There is no permanent fund, and the money for the support of its lectures is raised each year either by the sale of tickets or by popular subscription—the more usual manner—and in that case the lectures are free and public to all.

During the winter months, Tuesday evening is, by common consent, assigned and set apart for the Lyceum, and rash, indeed, would be anyone who should appoint any other public meeting for that evening.

Among the names of those who have lectured before the Lyceum are Ralph Waldo Emerson, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Mr. E. P. Whipple, Rev. James Freeman Clarke, Mr. A. Bronson Alcott, Judge E. R. Hoar, Mr. C. C. Coffin, Prest. C. C. Felton, Wendell Phillips, Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, Col. T. W. Higginson, Rev. E. E. Hale, Rev. Dr. E. H. Chapin, Rev. E. S. Gannett, Hon. N. P. Banks, Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell, Hon. John D. Long, Hon. Geo. B. Loring, Prof. Morse, Col. Thomas W. Knox, Hon. Wm. Parsons and a long list of other prominent men.

In 1879 the semi-centennial of the Lyceum was celebrated on December 23d. On that occasion Hon. Geo. W. Sanderson presided. An historical address was delivered by Miss Hannah P. Dodge, to whom the writer is indebted as authority, and other addresses were made by Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell, Hon. Geo. Stevens and Rev. Edmund B. Willson. The proceedings, including letters from invited guests, were printed in pamphlet form.

Littleton people are justly proud of this honored institution, which has been so well supported and has added much to the culture of the town.

It is interesting to relate the traditions about several of the large trees which beautify the town and are among the few landmarks connecting us with the past.

The great elm on Mr. John A. Kimball's land, near the mill-pond, marks the spot where lived Samuel Dudley, the first town clerk, and whose most excellent wife was cruelly accused of witchcraft.

The two largest elms on Colonel Joseph A. Har-



HON. GEORGE W. ANDERSON.

wood's lawn were set out by his grandfather, Captain Joseph Harwood, the younger, who, when a young man of about seventeen years, dug them up in the woods, carried them on his back and set them out where they stand, as well as two others which time has long since removed.

The elm by the house of Dr. R. H. Phelps, the most beautiful tree in town, was set out by Captain Kidder to serve the practical purposes of hitching-post and shade for his horse when he came to meeting. It is estimated to have been set out about the year 1810.

Captain Kidder kept the Tremont Tavern on the spot where the Baptist parsonage stands, and afterwards built the house owned by Mr. John W. Adams and occupied by him at the time it was burned by Scribner, the incendiary, in 1883.

The elm tree by the Baptist parsonage was set out by Mrs. Nye, the mother of the late Mr. Thomas Nye.

The elm tree on the sidewalk between Mr. Everett E. Kimball's and Mr. William Grimes' is the 'Rogers Tree,' so named by Mrs. Zadoc Rogers, who lived where Mr. Grimes does, and paid some young men five dollars to set it out where she designated.

The ash tree near the town hall door came from the valley on the west side of Long Pond and was brought on the shoulders of one of the young men of that time. Many of our older residents will remember a very large elm which formerly stood in the rear of the house of Mr. Eugene Felch. That tree was a memento of the courtship of John Hartwell and Mary Dix. Mr. Hartwell came along the road one day carrying some small elm trees, and meeting the lady who afterwards became his wife, gave her one which she set out, and which grew to immense size, and under it they both lived and died. The row of maples in the Centre, beginning at the Rogers tree and extending south on Foster Street, was set out in 1861. Littleton's record in the War of the Rebellion has not heretofore been fully compiled, as the town has only a partial list of the men who served as representing Littleton. The names here given, however, are believed to include all, both residents and others, accredited to the town as volunteers.

General Schouler in his "History of Massachusetts in the Rebellion," states that the whole number of men furnished by the town during the war was 117, a surplus of eighteen above the quota, but the following fifty-six are all the names which appear on the town book of record:

Charles E. Board, Warren B. Ball, Daniel Brown, Luther Battles, Joseph A. Butterfield, Marcus Conant, [Maj.] Sherman Conant, Edward J. Card, James Castello, George W. Clark, Theodore C. Clark, Isaac N. Dodge, James L. Durant, Halliwell R. Dunham, [Serg.] James T. Estes, Daniel C. Fletcher, Charles Franklin, William L. Flagg, John Fowley, Warren W. Gibson, [Serg.] Francis W. Goodwin, Barney Golden, Edward Golden, John S. Hartwell, Charles H. Holton, Ellbridge H. Joffe, Charles S. Joffe, Sherman H. Jewett, Abel H. Jones, [Corp.] Geo. W. Knowlton, John M. Kidder, Henry A. Lawrence, George A. Loring, Calvin L. Lubham, [Corp.] Albert B. Marshall, Patrick Moore, Nicholas O'Neal, [Corp.] George H. Patch, [Lieut.] Cyrus P. Pickard, [Corp.]

Herbert E. Preston, Oscar Preston, Ralph W. Parker, James Powers, [Corp.] Charles W. Reed, [Lieut.] George A. Reed, [Serg.] Albert W. Robbuis, [Corp.] Luther R. Searles, James C. Smith, Nathan F. Tuttle, [Corp.] Adams W. Tuttle, [Corp.] William C. Turner, Allen P. Whitcomb, Nahum H. Whitcomb, [Corp.] George L. Whitcomb, George White, Henry S. Willard.

The following forty-nine additional names have been collected by the author after careful and diligent search.

Corp. Edward D. Battles, Henry Bode, Charles P. Buckley, Henry O. Buraham, Edward Cameron, Hugh Casey, Corp. John Clark, Hugh Connolly, John Curran, George M. Downs, Henson Dyson, Edwin C. Field, Thomas Geary, Michael Gubbins, William Haley, John Hawkins, John Henderson, Thomas Jones, Julius Keiser, Balthass Kellar, Joseph Kiehamer, Stephen B. Knights, Charles A. Long, Edmund Maunder, Jacob McAttee, Edward C. Magoren, Charles McCarthy, Eben S. McCleary, Alexander McGregor, George C. Monroe, Darius H. C. Nelson, Corp. James O'Brien, Cornelius O'Connor, William Parker, Calvin R. Paige, Asst. Surg. Isaiah L. Pickard, Sergt. Comfort Preston, Austin Richardson, Albert J. Robbins, Frederick Shaffer, Patrick Shorey, George Smith, William Smith, James Sweeney, John D. Sautron, Homer A. Warren, Anton Winch, August Vanderhyde, Edward Vansicklae.

Some of these never resided in town, and were merely engaged to fill the quota, or as substitutes from wherever they happened to come, without regard to residence. The number 117 was no doubt made up by re-enlistments, of which there were several.

The first town-meeting to consider matters relating to the war was held May 1, 1861, when it was voted to raise by taxation \$1000, and the selectmen were authorized to borrow \$2000, if needed, to pay each soldier belonging to the town \$10 a month while in the service, and to provide for their families.

In July a committee, consisting of the selectmen, who were John F. Robbins, John Cutter and James A. Parker, with the addition of Dea. Richard Hall, Francis P. Knowlton, Dea. Thomas S. Tuttle and Benjamin Edwards, were chosen to expend the money appropriated at the previous meeting.

A year later, in July, 1862, a bounty of \$100 was voted to each volunteer for three years' service, and again, a year later, in August, 1863, the bounty was raised to \$125.

At the same meeting resolutions were passed appropriate to the death of Nahum H. Whitcomb, of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, who was killed at Suffolk, Va., and the town voted to pay the expense of bringing home and interring his remains.

The town continued recruiting and paying bounties during the remainder of the war, and expended, exclusive of State aid, \$11,104.33.

In 1863-64-65 the selectmen were Joseph A. Priest, William Kimball and George W. Sanderson.

Though a small boy at the time, the writer well remembers the impressive citizens' meeting in Central Hall when the first volunteers, enlisted for nine months, took their departure. Speeches were made by prominent citizens, and the soldiers appeared in their new uniforms.

A Soldiers' Aid Society was formed under the presidency of Mrs. S. B. White, widow of Rev. Wm. H. White, and many boxes of clothing, bandages and comforts were forwarded to the seat of war.

LIBRARIES.—One of the earliest public libraries in this State was in Littleton, and was established previous to 1827, probably by an association. It was a small collection of books, several being on theology; there were also Josephus' "History of the Jews," "Gil Blas," with some of Scott's and other novels of a standard character, and was kept on a set of three or four shelves which were placed in the house of the person having them in charge for the time being, and given out to any citizen who called for them.

At the date above mentioned the library was kept in the house of Mr. Timothy Prescott, who lived in the Rogers house, on the spot where Mr. George Whitcomb now lives. The books were sold at auction in 1834 or '35. About this time was established another library which was in charge of Dea. James Kimball, town clerk in the house now occupied and owned by Mr. A. P. Hager, until the evening of Jan. 1, 1847, when the books were sold at auction and bought by different people in town. Many of the books are still in existence, and the writer has seen one with the original book-plate headed "Littleton Town Library" on the inside cover.

An agricultural library was also established, probably after the sale of the town library, and kept an assortment of books on subjects of interest to farmers on some shelves in the Centre store. This library was maintained and owned by an association, and was more of a book club than a public library.

For several years previous to the foundation of the Reuben Hoar Library the case containing the agricultural library, the books of which were little, if any read, had been kept in the old brick Centre School-house, which was used as a town office, and had also a vault for town books and records in it.

These were all turned into the Reuben Hoar Library, together with many books belonging to the town, which were in charge of the selectmen, and had also been kept in the brick school-house.

This lot of town books contained many valuable sets which had been issued by the State from time to time, such as the Massachusetts and Plymouth Colony Records, Hitchcock's "Technology of New England," and others.

We now come to the Reuben Hoar Library. Some time during the fall or early winter of 1884 a gentleman who desired to remain unknown communicated to Dea. George W. Tuttle his desire to assist in founding a free public library in Littleton, and requested Mr. Tuttle to consult with several citizens as to the best way to proceed, at the same time expressing his willingness to give the sum of \$10,000 under certain conditions.

Mr. Tuttle consulted with Hon. George W. Sanderson, Mr. Gardner Prouty, Mr. Shattuck Hartwell and Mr. Nelson B. Conant, who held several meetings in regard to the matter and communicated with the unknown gentleman through Mr. Tuttle. Before matters were in shape to lay before the town, Mr. Tuttle

was taken sick with what proved to be his final illness, and in the latter part of the winter the people of this town mourned in his death the loss of a highly respected and valued citizen. Before his death he communicated to Mr. Nelson B. Conant his son-in-law the name of the gentleman making the offer and negotiations were then carried on through Mr. Conant.

After deciding on a plan to propose, a citizens' meeting was called for Monday afternoon, March 23, 1885, at which time the donor's offer and conditions were announced as follows: \$10,000 to be appropriated by the town, \$2500 to be raised by subscription, \$10,000 to be given by a party (his name to be unknown), on condition that the library be called the Reuben Hoar Library, and that \$5000 be invested in books, and \$5000 be invested and kept as a fund of which the interest to be expended yearly in books to replenish the library.

None of the gift of \$10,000 to be expended on the building. The books to be kept insured by the town and all expenses attending the running of the library paid by the town.

The library and its funds to be in charge of seven trustees, viz.: the pastor of the Unitarian Church and one layman, the pastor of the Orthodox Church and one layman, the pastor of the Baptist Church and one layman; one of the selectmen.

The plan proposed by the gentlemen who called the meeting, that is the conference committee, was to accept the offer and to build, with the \$10,000 to be appropriated by the town, a town-hall and library building combined.

Some opposition was manifested, as many desired to see the plan modified so that the town would not be required to expend so much money on a building, but the plan of the conference committee was carried out and resolutions favoring the acceptance of the offer were adopted.

The committee and others then began a canvass for subscriptions toward the \$2500 to be raised in that way, and after sufficient progress had been made a town-meeting was held in Central Hall, Monday, June 8, 1885, to see if the town would accept the conditions of the gift and appropriate money for building a hall and library and other matters connected with the matter. After considerable opposition the offer and conditions were accepted and a building committee chosen consisting of Gardner Prouty, Joseph A. Priest, George W. Sanderson, Edward Frost and Herbert J. Harwood, with instructions to report plans and location for a building at an adjourned meeting two weeks later. At that time the committee reported in favor of the location opposite the Unitarian Church, and showed sketches by Hartwell & Richardson, architects.

The report was accepted and it was to build, and \$10,000 appropriated.

The committee then went to work, but care and caution marked its proceedings, which were also pro-



James Kimball



HON. JONATHAN EASTWELL

tracted by financial difficulties of the general contractor, so that it was two years before the building was completed and furnished.

For furnishing, the town made a further appropriation, which brought the cost of the building up to \$11,000 or thereabouts.

The building was dedicated July 28, 1887, with an oration by ex-Governor John D. Long, addresses by Hon. George S. Boutwell and Hon. Charles H. Allen, a letter from the founder of the Reuben Hoar Library, and other appropriate exercises.

The founder wrote as follows:

"About fifty years ago a resident of Littleton became involved and was obliged to fail in business.

"Reuben Hoar being his largest creditor was made assignee. After looking over the assets and finding that if sufficient time was given they might realize just about enough to pay the debts in full, Mr. Hoar said to the man, 'I will make you my agent; go on, collect and distribute until you have paid all their just due, and if there is nothing left I will furnish you with capital to start again.'

"For some two years the business was managed with the most rigid economy, during which time Mr. Hoar proved wise in counsel and generous in help.

"When the estate had been settled, leaving a sufficient surplus to pay Mr. Hoar his legal and proper commission as assignee, he refused all compensation.

"It is from the careful use of that small residue by two generations that the means have been acquired with which to found this Library in honor of Reuben Hoar.

"By the donor."

In the mean time library trustees had been chosen on July 3, 1885, as follows: Rev. Robert G. Johnson, Rev. William I. Nichols, Rev. John C. Staples, Nelson B. Conant, Herbert J. Harwood, Hon. George W. Sandersou, Miss Hannah P. Dodge, who organized with Mr. Sandersou, chairman; Miss Dodge, secretary and Mr. Conant, treasurer; and proceeded to make a selection of books, and to invest the permanent fund. Miss Sarah F. White was chosen librarian, a position which she still honors.

After purchasing, classifying and arranging about 2200 volumes, the library was opened to the public a few days after the dedication of the building.

A printed catalogue was issued in December, 1889, and at that time the library had grown to about 4500 volumes. The benefits of the library are fully appreciated by the citizens of the town, and there are few people of eligible age who do not either take out books or frequent the periodical table, so that the total circulation of books is over 7000 a year in a population of 1000.

The library is open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and Saturday evenings. A fine oil portrait of the late Reuben Hoar, in whose honor the library was named, hangs upon the wall of the reading-room, the gift of his daughters,—Mrs. Adelbert Mead, of West Acton, and Mrs. Isaac Wright, of Harvard.

The library also received a bequest of \$1000 by the will of Augustus K. Fletcher, formerly of this town, and has also been favored with many gifts of books and some pictures, as well as a valuable manuscript collection of historical and genealogical matter be-

longing to the late Samuel Smith and given by his heirs.

The town is also the owner of five shares in the Boston Athenæum Library, presented many years ago by Dr. Shattuck, of Boston, a relative of the first minister of the town, by the use of which books can be taken out by Littleton people.

The three churches have each a library of Sunday-school books, and that of the Unitarian Church is also quite general in its character, and contains books for people of all ages.

Littleton is principally a farming town, but has at the depot village a factory for canning and pickling fruit and vegetables, operated by E. T. Cowdrey & Co., the plant being owned by a company of Littleton men. There are two saw and grist-mills owned and operated by Fred C. Hartwell,—one at the depot and the other at the old Warren mill-site. At the Common Village are located the factory for manufacturing elastic webs and suspenders and the apple evaporator, both owned and operated by Conant & Houghton. Conant & Co. have stores at the Common and depot. Thacher & Hazen, a new firm, recently succeeding A. W. & W. H. Sawyer, at the depot and C. C. Hildreth at the Centre.

A few years since a large and costly brick factory was built near the depot by the Avery Lactate Co., for the manufacture, by a new process, of lactic acid, but the company failed and the building and machinery stand idle, having been sold for taxes.

About the time of the War of the Revolution there was a factory for dressing cloth on the brook near the house of Peter S. Whitcomb; it was owned by a stock company, which had, in 1779, seventeen shareholders, mostly residents.

The population of Littleton in 1776 was 918; in 1860, 1063; and in 1885, 1067. The number of polls is 305 and the valuation \$849,273.

The town has been represented in the State Senate by Rev. Edmund Foster, Hon. Jonathan Hartwell, Hon. Joseph A. Harwood and Hon. George W. Sandersou, and in the Executive Council by Hon. Joseph A. Harwood.

The State engineer of the Hoosac Tunnel, completed in 1875, was Benjamin D. Frost, of this town.

Taverns have been kept in Littleton by Samuel Hunt, probably near Peter S. Whitcomb's house, mention of which is made in the early records of meetings held there as early as 1722; also by one Lawrence, probably Samuel, in the south part of the town as early as 1768, in the house now occupied by David Hall, of which previous mention has been made; by John Fox and after his death by his wife, in the Centre about the time of the French and Indian War; also by Capt. Leonard Whiting in the Centre, previous to the Revolution; by William Henry Prentice, in the Centre, where Everett E. Kimball lives, during the Revolution; by Samuel Gilbert and afterwards about the beginning of this century by Captain

Kidder, at the Common, called the Tremont House, which stood where the Baptist parsonage now is—the building continued to be used as a hotel until it was struck by lightning and burned in 1845; by Simeon Proctor, where Solomon S. Flagg now lives; by Madison Loring, who succeeded Captain Kidder, at the Common, in the house afterwards occupied as a dwelling by the late John W. Adams; by Samuel Smith, on the spot where Albert F. Conant's house stands, and later, in the same building, by J. M. Colburn, William Chamberlain, Boynton Needham and others, and last by George D. Brown, who owned the place when it was burned, in 1878, but had not kept it open to the public for several years previous.

William L. Mitchel now keeps a public-house at the Common and has for several years.

As before stated, the earliest cemetery in town was at Nashoba, and was plowed up a number of years ago. The second and oldest of the two present cemeteries, the one at the Common, was laid out in 1721 and is described as having for its "East Corner an oak tree by King St. so called." The other cemetery was purchased in 1801, but was used only for the interment of paupers until the year 1812.

The following epitaphs are to be found in the old cemetery at the Common:—

"Memento Mori.

Here lies the Body of Dr. Enoch Dole, of Lancaster, Æ 33 yrs. 5 mos. & 3 days, he unfortunately fell with 3 others y^e 9th of Mar, 1776, by a cannon Ball from our cruel & unnatural Foes y^e British Troops while on his Duty on Dorchester Point.

No warning giv'n

Unceremonious fate!

A sudden rush from life's meridian joys!

A wrench from all we are from all we love,

What a change from yesterday!

Thy darling hope so near (Long labored prize),

Oh, how ambition flushed Thy glowing cheek—ambition truly great

Of virtuous praise;

And Oh! y^e last (what can word express thought reach), y^e last, last silence of a friend.

Meaning his entrance into Boston which so soon took Place & on which his heart was much set."

"Here lyes the body of Isaac Powers,
One of those sweet and pleasant flowers,
Who in his Lifetime Lived well,
But God did toll his mournful bell;
Let this be a call unto the rest
When God doth take from us the best
Who was a pattern to us all.
But God can give a louder call
All earthly parents now behold;
The price of Grace is more than gold.
Prepare to meet your children first
At the Resurrection of the Just.

Who died December 15, 1729, in the 26th year of his age."

"Affliction sore, long time I bore
Physicians was in vain,
Till God did please
And Death did seize
To ease me of my pain."

"As you are now, so once was I,
Rejoicing in my bloom,
As I am now, you soon must be,
Dissolving in the tomb."

"Present useful
Absent wanted,
Lived desired
And died lamented."

BIOGRAPHICAL.

HON. JOSEPH ALFRED HARWOOD.

In Littleton the number of old families living on farms which have been handed down from sire to son for many generations is remarkable, and among the oldest is the Harwood family, of which Hon. Joseph A. Harwood is the head.

Nathaniel Harwood, of English origin, was living in Boston in 1655, whence he removed to Concord. From there his son Peter and grandson, Captain Joseph Harwood, moved to Littleton and bought in 1737 the estate upon which the family now live.

Their first residence was in a lot since grown up to woods near the new road to Newtown from Littleton depot, and some half-mile east of Mr. Harwood's house.

The cellar-hole may yet be seen and the old well filled with stones, while a short distance away is a fountainspring which comes up through a hollow log set in the ground no doubt some 150 years ago. About 1754 a house was built near the present one by Captain Joseph Harwood, and his son, Captain Joseph Harwood, Jr., then a young man, set out the elm trees, of which two large ones are still standing, and under which Mr. Harwood's grandchildren, the seventh generation on the place, to-day play.

The Harwoods have always been prominent in town affairs, and have been pioneers in all movements of reform and improvement.

Colonel Nahum Harwood, the father of the subject of this sketch, was one of the first Abolitionists, and a co-worker with Garrison and Phillips. He was also one of the projectors of the Fitchburgh Railroad. His wife, Mrs. Sophia Kimball Harwood, who lived to the advanced age of a few days less than ninety-four years, used to relate many incidents of the olden time, among them how she wore crape, when a girl, for the death of George Washington, reminiscences of the last slave owned by the Harwood family, etc.

The old house above referred to as built in 1754, was destroyed by fire in 1874, together with a great number of relics and heirlooms.

It was one of those substantial square white houses, with an immense chimney in the centre, standing under the broad elms on the sunny southern slope of a hill, the style of house which, though now becoming



L. Howard.

scarcely, has always been the typical New England farm-house.

From its windows were seen the smoke of the burning of Charlestown and the battle of Bunker Hill, and in its cellar the frightened inhabitants took refuge during the "dark day" of 1780. Many slaves were born and raised in the house, but the slavery was never like the Southern slavery, and the Harwoods were among the first Abolitionists.

Here was born Joseph Alfred Harwood, March 26, 1827. He attended the district school and afterward the academics at Westford, Groton, and Exeter, New Hampshire. It was intended to send him to college, but his father dying when he was fifteen years old, he came home to take charge of the farm.

Many old heads predicted failure for a boy with a large farm on his hands, and a fondness for fine horses and cattle, but the boy had a level head and managed well. He made many improvements on the farm "making two blades of grass grow where one grew before," draining old bogs and making them produce, heavy crops of fine English hay, plowing up huckleberry pastures and planting orchards, and similar things. Meantime he paid his bills, rent and interest on the portions of the farm belonging to the other heirs, and finally bought and paid for the whole. He found time to teach school for a number of winters, and was noted for his good discipline, and the ease with which he maintained it. A school in a neighboring town, containing a number of full-grown scholars, men in size, who had driven away two or three teachers, and vowed vengeance on the next who should come, was turned over to Mr. Harwood, when he was only seventeen years of age, to complete a term. He held his place without resorting to harsh measures, and left the school orderly, obedient and respectful.

The stock on Mr. Harwood's farm has always, since under his management, been of the best. He introduced among his cattle the first thoroughbred animals ever brought into Littleton, and by frequent additions of new blood has not only improved his own herd, but the stock on all the neighboring farms. He devoted himself almost exclusively to agriculture until 1868, when, in partnership with his younger brother, Nahum, under the name of J. A. & N. Harwood, he commenced the manufacture of leather board, their factory being at North Leominster, on the Nashua River, and their salesroom in Boston. The great Boston fire of November, 1872, found the firm moving a large stock of goods from one store to another; both were burned, but by good fortune and good judgment combined—for they always go together—their insurance was divided among a number of out-of-town companies and was all good.

During the panic of 1873 the firm stood its ground, while many of its neighbors succumbed.

On April 1, 1884, the Leominster factory was destroyed by fire, causing a loss to the firm and a fur-

ther indirect loss by crippling the business during rebuilding, but by good management all liabilities were promptly met and the business continued. A fine new factory was built, the firm was made into a corporation under Massachusetts laws, by the name of the Harwood Manufacturing Company, and has continued the same business, branching out somewhat in the manufacture of patent fibre chair-seats and chairs, and settees for churches, theatres and halls. Joseph A. Harwood is president and treasurer.

In all matters, both of public and private business, Mr. Harwood's policy has been liberal and expansive, encouraging all improvements such as new roads, public buildings or any project which will increase the business and prosperity of his town, and also in the improvement and adornment of his estate. After the old house was burned he built a large and elegant new one on the top of the hill, a few rods from where the old one stood. The wood-cut opposite gives an accurate idea of the house and surroundings. The view from the house in all directions is very fine, covering the park with its walks, drives and ponds, all planned and laid out by Mr. Harwood, who is intensely fond of landscape gardening, beyond which the eye passes over a large expanse of hills and valleys to Mounts Wachusett, Monadnock, Watatick and the Peterboro' hills.

Mr. Harwood has in his farm about 240 acres, a considerable part of which he has added within a few years by the purchase of land extending in the direction of Littleton depot, on which is located the United States Cattle Quarantine Station, which was moved from Waltham in 1885, as a result of his efforts and against much political opposition stimulated by those who wanted it elsewhere.

Mr. Harwood was postmaster of Littleton for about twenty years, and during the greater part of the time accommodated the citizens by sending the mail at his own expense to sub-offices at the Centre and Old Common, previous to the establishing of a regular office at Littleton Common. Through his influence a telegraph office was established in connection with the post-office, which could be done only in that way, and by his bearing a part of the expense of a clerk for both offices.

In 1873 Governor Washburn appointed Mr. Harwood on his staff, and he was re-appointed by Lieut. Governor Talbot when acting Governor for the unexpired term after the election of Governor Washburn to the United States Senate. Col. Harwood was elected to the State Senate in 1875 and re-elected the following year and was an active, practical and influential legislator. He served in his first year as chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, and also on the Committees on Agriculture, and on Engrossed Bills, and in the following year was chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and a member of the Committee on Public Charitable Institutions.

An important matter that was carried through the

Senate largely through his influence and efforts was the building of the State Prison at Concord. During his second term occurred the celebration of the Lexington and Concord Centennials, and Mr. Harwood was made chairman of the joint special committee having the whole matter in charge for the Legislature, including the entertainment of President Grant and his cabinet.

General Grant, on his return to Washington, wrote him an autograph letter as follows:—

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Apl. 27, 1875.

"HON. J. A. HARWOOD, Chairman Legislative Committee.

"Dear Sir:—Permit me through you—the chairman of the committee of the Mass. Legislature, appointed to meet the Cabinet and myself on the occasion of the late centennial celebration of the battles of Concord—Lexington, and convey to us the invitation of the State to be its guests for the time—to tender my thanks, and the thanks of the accompanying Cabinet Ministers for the courtesies received from his Excellency the Governor of the state, and staff, your committee and citizens generally. Nothing was left undone to make our short stay in the state most pleasant. With great respect,

"Your obt. svt.,

"U. S. GRANT."

At the expiration of Mr. Harwood's second term in the Senate, he was elected to the Executive Council from the Sixth Councilor District, and served in that capacity three years—the first two in Governor Rice's and the last in Governor Talbot's.

The first year he was on the Committees on Pardons, on Penal Institutions, on Military Affairs and chairman of the Committee on Accounts; in the two succeeding years he was on the two first-named committees, also on the Committee on Railroads and the Hoosac Tunnel, and chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. During his third year he was one of the senior members of the Council and was considered Governor Talbot's right-hand man in that administration, which has been celebrated for its careful and business-like management and strict integrity.

In 1879 and again in 1882, Mr. Harwood was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for Lieutenant-Governor, and in the convention of the former year received 181 votes and of the latter 233.

He has always been a staunch Republican, and prides himself on having invariably voted the straight ticket in both State and national affairs.

In his whole career, both in business and politics, determined persistence has marked his course and has been the cause of his success.

He is now president and treasurer of the Harwood Manufacturing Company, president of the Live Stock Insurance Company, director in the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of New York, trustee of the New England Agricultural Society, trustee of the Middlesex Agricultural Society, trustee of Westford Academy and trustee of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. He has always been an active member of the Unitarian Society and Church, and was at one time a president of the North Middlesex Conference.

In personal appearance Mr. Harwood is tall, with

iron gray hair and beard, a full face and a sharp eye; he walks with a long stride and very fast. He is very cordial in manner and makes and holds many friends.

In 1852 Mr. Harwood married Lucy Maria Hartwell, of Littleton, daughter of Hon. Jonathan and Elizabeth Briard (Walker) Hartwell.

Two sons have been born to them—Herbert Joseph, who graduated from Harvard College in 1877, and is now associated with his father in business, also, with his wife and five children, living with his father and mother at the old place, and Edward Alfred, who died in infancy.

WILLIAM KIMBALL.

William Kimball, son of Deacon James and Rachel Hartwell, Kimball was born in Littleton December 6, 1817. The greater part of his life was spent in his native town, in which, for about twenty years of his early manhood, he kept a store, and during a portion of this time was postmaster. For many years he was justice of the peace. In 1845 he married Mary Adams Lawrence. Of their six children, four survive,—George A., William L., Myron A. and Mrs. Mary K. Harlow, the first and last living in Somerville, Mass., William L. and Myron A. residing in Littleton.

At the semi-centennial of the church of which Mr. Kimball had been a member, his pastor, in alluding to him, said: "His pleasant countenance was an inspiration."

The following resolution from the town records shows the esteem in which he was held by the citizens:

"Resolved. That in the lamented death of William Kimball we greatly mourn our loss of an exemplary and honored citizen, an experienced, efficient and upright official. Living most of his life of sixty-six years in his native town, by his sterling traits of character, his kindly spirit, his habitual courtesy, his modest manliness, his firm principles and proved integrity, his genuine and ready support of the public interests, and his earnest, simple, Christian faith and life, he gained and held the confidence and esteem of his townsmen, as shown in the continuous and unanimous choice of him to be their town clerk for more than a quarter of a century."

It was said by one who knew him well: "He walked among men one of earth's noblemen, whose integrity was so staunch and whose honor so true that there was none to point the finger of scorn at him or to impeach his honesty."

In 1869 he married Mrs. Lucy M. Houghton, youngest daughter of John Goldsmith, of Littleton. He died October 14, 1884, aged sixty-six years.

DEACON JAMES KIMBALL.

In presenting a sketch of the life of Deacon James Kimball, it seems suitable to prefix some account of his father, Deacon Daniel Kimball, the progenitor of the Kimball family in Littleton:

Daniel Kimball was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, July 13, 1751. Soon after his removal to Littleton the Revolutionary War broke out. He entered



SAMUEL SMITH

the army, in which he soon obtained the rank of lieutenant.

In 1779 he married Lucy Dutton, of Littleton. Of their twelve children, three died in infancy; the remainder all married and settled in Littleton. The following are their names:

Daniel, James, Benjamin, Jesse, Lucy (Kimball) Mead, John, Sophia (Kimball) Harwood, Sebia (Kimball) Goldsmith and Rebecca (Kimball) Fletcher.

At the present time (1890) more than sixty worthy descendants of Deacon Daniel Kimball reside in Littleton, and more than 125 are scattered through the States from Vermont to California. He died in 1813, aged sixty-two years.

In the archives of the town library may be found a funeral sermon preached by Rev. Edmund Foster, in which his character is delineated.

Deacon James Kimball, second son of Deacon Daniel Kimball, was born in Littleton in 1783.

He married, in 1807, Rachel Hartwell, of Littleton. Of their ten children, two—Sophia (Kimball) Hurter, of Jacksonville, Florida, and Elizabeth (Kimball) Stevens, for many years a resident of Lowell—are still living.

James Kimball was, while quite a young man, prominent in town and other public interests. He was one of the pioneers of the anti-slavery and temperance movements. From 1838 to 1851 he was town clerk.

He was an interested and active member of the Lyceum from its beginning: a society which for more than half a century has had an important educational influence in the town.

He was for many years chosen as one of the Board of Selectmen, and for a considerable period represented the town in the State Legislature. He was deacon of the Orthodox Congregational Church from its organization (which occurred in his own house), in 1840, to his death. He had previously held the office of deacon in the Unitarian Church.

His second wife was Mrs. Mary B. Harris.

He died in 1869, aged eighty-six years. His life fully warranted the estimate of his character shown by his father in the advice given his children upon his death-bed: "My children, take James for an example."

JOHN GOLDSMITH.

John Goldsmith was a native of Acton, Mass. He was a son of John and Maria (Houghton) Goldsmith, —the former being a native of Littleton and the latter of Harvard. It is supposed he was a lineal descendant of the Goldsmith family that was of the early settlers of the country, and which tradition states was of Irish descent. On the town records of Wenham is the statement that in 1659 Richard Goldsmith was taxed for the salary of the minister one pound, fifteen shillings. In 1731 Richard Goldsmith married Hannah Dodge, of Wenham, and in the old burying-ground at Littleton some ancient grave-

stones mark the spot where their ashes repose. Mr. Goldsmith was also a lineal descendant of Rev. Benjamin Shattuck, first minister of Littleton. The Goldsmith family moved from Littleton to Harvard, and John, the subject of this sketch, having been deprived of his father, through accident, in early life, was put in charge of his grandfather, who brought him up. In 1818 he was married at Littleton to Sebia Kimball, a daughter of Deacon Daniel and Lucy (Dutton) Kimball, both of Littleton. In early manhood he engaged in farming, and owned and occupied for sixty years the homestead where he died. His estate is situated about a half-mile easterly of Littleton Common. It is beautifully located, and the buildings and grounds indicate the thrift of their former proprietor. Mr. Goldsmith was a fine type of a New England farmer. He was industrious, economical and attended strictly to the interests of his farm. He made a business of farming, by which, together with safe investments, he acquired a large property. As a citizen he was public-spirited and had the confidence of his fellow-townsmen, who many times elected him to positions of honor and trust. He was a prominent member of the Unitarian Church, a constant attendant on its services and a regular contributor to its support. At his decease he left a sum of money for the benefit of the Littleton public schools, and the appreciation of the gift by the town is set forth by the following resolutions:

"WHEREAS, Our lamented townsman, the late John Goldsmith, bequeathed to the town of Littleton the 'Sum of Fifteen Hundred dollars,' to be held and invested by the Selectmen and their successors, as trustees, the income of which he desired should be expended annually for education in the Common Schools of said Littleton—

"*Resolved*, That the citizens of the town hereby express and record their grateful recognition of the value of Mr. Goldsmith's long life among them as that of an upright and honored citizen, of diligent industry, of sound integrity, and strict fidelity to every trust; of great wisdom in council, and excellence of heart, whose memory we cherish with just pride and whose sterling character and example we commend as worthy of personal emulation."

Mr. Goldsmith died at Littleton February 14, 1883, at the age of eighty-seven. His family, beside his wife, consisted of two sons, John and Daniel, both of whom died unmarried, and three daughters, Sophia, Julia and Lucy Maria, the latter being the only child now living. Sophia married Francis Conant; Lucy Maria, the youngest daughter, married Daniel P. Houghton, of Harvard, and later William Kimball, son of Deacon James Kimball, of Littleton, and now resides at her father's late residence.

OTIS MANNING.

Otis Manning was born at Littleton, Massachusetts, October 31, 1805, and was a son of Jonathan and Lydia (Howard) Manning, both natives of Chelmsford. His education was obtained at the district school, with the exception of one term spent at the Westford Academy. In early life he learned the wheelwright's trade, and for more than

half a century he followed this vocation, working most of the time in a shop that is still standing near his present residence, which is a little northerly of Littleton Common. December 10, 1833, he was married at Westford to Miss Ann Crosby Carter, daughter of Ezra and Anna (Jaquith) Carter. He has one child, Ann Maria Manning.

Mr. Manning is a Republican, but has never actively participated in political affairs, except to perform the ordinary duties of citizenship. In matters of reform he has always been on the right side—being an Abolitionist in the days of slavery, and an advocate of temperance in the early days of that reform.

When almost everybody was accustomed to use some alcoholic liquor, he was a total abstainer, and this practice he has followed through life. In his church relations he is a staunch Congregationalist. In early life he joined the church in Westford, and for some years was superintendent of its Sunday-school. He was one of the original members of the Orthodox Church in Littleton, which was organized May 14, 1840. Since the formation of this church he has held the office of deacon, and for years served as clerk and Sabbath-school superintendent. As a church officer he has been faithful and efficient, and as a Christian his life has been exceptionally commendable through these many long years of service for the Master. He has but rarely been absent from his place at church on the Sabbath, or at the weekly church meeting; and has been a ready and willing contributor for the maintenance of the institutions of his faith. Not only has he been devoted to the spreading of the Gospel at home and in his own land, but he has been much interested in the propagation of it in other lands. He has been a firm and substantial friend of the great missionary societies, and during a long life he has spent but few nights away from his native town except to attend religious conferences and conventions.

Few lives have perhaps been more exemplary than his; and in the quiet retirement of old age he still retains a lively interest in the causes that he has long helped maintain. He resides with his daughter, and, with the exception of the infirmities incident to advanced age, he is still in the enjoyment of robust health.

BARNABAS DODGE.

Barnabas Dodge, an old and respected citizen of Littleton, was of English stock, the ancestor of the American branch of the family, William Dodge, being among the company that landed at Salem in 1629, under the leadership of John Endicott.

His father, John Dodge, served in the War of the Revolution, under his father, Captain John Dodge. His maternal grandfather, Barnabas Dodge, was a captain in Colonel Gerrish's regiment, which was in service at the battle of Bunker Hill.

Mr. Dodge was born in Wenham, Massachusetts; in 1795. His father was a farmer, but in his youth had made several voyages to foreign countries, as was common with the young men in the coast towns at that time. The family came to Littleton in 1818, having bought the estate known as the Captain Cogswell farm, in the north part of the town. In his youth Mr. Dodge taught a district school. While in this employment he met, as his pupil, Miss Sarah Corning, of Beverly, who in 1820 became his wife. Mr. Dodge cultivated and greatly improved his farm, never seeking public life or honors. It has been said of the Dodge family, that they do not seek public office, but when it is conferred upon them, that they perform its duties with ability and fidelity. This was true of the subject of this sketch. He held various town offices, school committee, selectman, &c. He was the father of ten children, who lived to adult age. The eldest daughter became a teacher. After several terms in the district schools of Littleton, she became successively principal of the Townsend Female Seminary, whence she had graduated; Oread Institute, Worcester; Codman Hill Young Ladies' School, Dorchester; Ladies' Department Kalamazoo College, Michigan, and of Colby Academy, New London, New Hampshire. She was superintendent of schools in Littleton four years after her return to her native town in 1877. Another daughter was for several years teacher in the Winchester High School. She married Rev. E. B. Eddy, of Calais, Maine, and died in 1879. Two of the sons are in business in Cambridge; two remain in Littleton. Three of the daughters and four sons are still (1890) living.

Mr. Dodge was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, was a diligent reader, and assisted in forming two small town libraries, which, unfortunately, survived but a few years. His older children remember the interest which all felt when the father brought home a new book from the library, and their enjoyment of the winter evenings when he would read aloud from these, or the family newspaper, as they worked around the cheerful fire-place, filled high with glowing logs, over the ruddy heaps of living coals beneath. Mr. Dodge was an honest man. No one could ever bring against him charges of cheating or meanness in trade. He was truthful, sympathetic and a faithful friend. He was interested in the affairs of the town and of the state and the nation, never seeking to control them, but always on the side of what he believed to be the right. He died in 1873. His wife survived him fifteen years, dying at the old homestead, still in possession of the family, to which she had come as a youthful bride almost seventy years before.

GARDNER PROUTY.

Gardner Prouty was born at Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, September 4, 1817, and was the son of Gardner and Ruth (How) Prouty, both of



Wardner Prouty

Spencer. He attended the common schools of his native town till about seventeen years of age, when he went to Westminster, where he spent one term at the Academy. After leaving school he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked about six years. In 1847 he went to Boston, and for a time engaged in the ice shipping business. Afterwards he was in the business of wharfinger, in which he continued till January 1, 1889. In 1864 he went to Littleton and purchased the place where he still resides. His house is pleasantly situated on the main street at Littleton Common; and connected with it is a farm of sixty-four acres, the care of which has afforded him ample opportunity for exercise since his retirement from his former business. June 3, 1851, Mr. Prouty was mar-

ried at Boston, by Rev. Thomas Starr King, to Clara D. Wheelock, of Calais, Vermont. Miss Wheelock was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Welcome Wheelock, formerly of Charlton, Worcester County, Massachusetts. He has one child, Gardner W., who is married and lives in Littleton. Mr. Prouty is a Democrat, and was a delegate to the Presidential Convention held in New York in 1868. He has taken an active part in the public affairs of Littleton, having been selectman and assessor seven years, and overseer of the poor six years, and five years chairman of these boards. For several years he was also a member of the School Committee, and was moderator of the annual town-meeting of Littleton twenty years. His paternal ancestor came to Spencer from Scituate.





SIGN OF THE LAWRENCE TAVERN.

Historical Sketch of Littleton, Mass.

BY HERBERT J. HARWOOD.

NOW READY.

Reprinted from the History of Middlesex County with the addition of many illustrations. The matter tries to give, in a condensed and readable form, an outline of Littleton history from A. D. 1654 to recent times.

Particular attention has been paid to the ancient Nashobah Plantation of Praying Indians, whose story is interesting and pathetic.

The early white settlers, with the names of many, their attempts at incorporation and purchases from the Indians receive due attention. Among the incidents given is an account of the Littleton witchcraft excitement.

Concerning the military history of the town many facts and names are given which were never before printed. Of the Littleton men who served in the French and Indian War, forty-four names are given; of those who served in the War of the Revolution, one hundred and fifty names, and of the soldiers of the late war, one hundred and five names.

To the ecclesiastical history of Littleton, comprising as it does the most important history of the town, has been devoted a large proportion of this sketch from the date of incorporation. The leading facts concerning each of the present religious societies are given, including lists of the ministers with dates.

No attempt has been made at a complete town history. That could not be written at this time, and anything approaching it will require the work of a lifetime, but the matter given in the twenty-five closely printed double column pages represents no small amount of research. The author hopes that the fact of its being short will tend to make the sketch more read, and perhaps leave impressed upon the minds of readers as good a general idea of Littleton history as a more voluminous work.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLANS.

TOWN HALL and LIBRARY, Gelatine print.	REV. EDMUND FOSTER, Gelatine print.
JOHN GOLDSMITH, Steel Engraving.	Sign of LAWRENCE TAVERN, Wood cut.
Residence of HON. J. A. HARWOOD, wood cut.	COL. NAHUM HARWOOD, Gelatine print.
Plan of NASHORAH PLANTATION } Lithograph made by Jonathan Danforth, 1686, 1 fac simile.	REV. WM. H. WHITE, Gelatine print.
Plan showing how LITTLETON was } formed from NASHORAH PLANTA- } TION and other lands. } Process print	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Wood cut.
Residence of J. HARTWELL WHITCOMB, Gelatine print.	CENTRE SCHOOL HOUSE showing REV. W. W. LOVEJOY, teacher, and } SCHOLARS of HIGH SCHOOL, in } Gelatine Autumn of 1875. } print.
OTIS MANNING, Steel Engraving.	JAMES KIMBALL, Steel Engraving.
Residence of HON. GEO. W. SANDERSON, Gelatine print.	HON. GEO. W. SANDERSON, Gelatine print.
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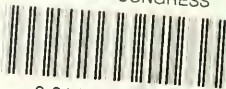
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